クライング フリーマン

CRYING FREEMAN

Kazuo Koike / Ryoichi Ikegami

3

小池一夫・作
池上遼一・画

クライング
CRYING FREEMAN
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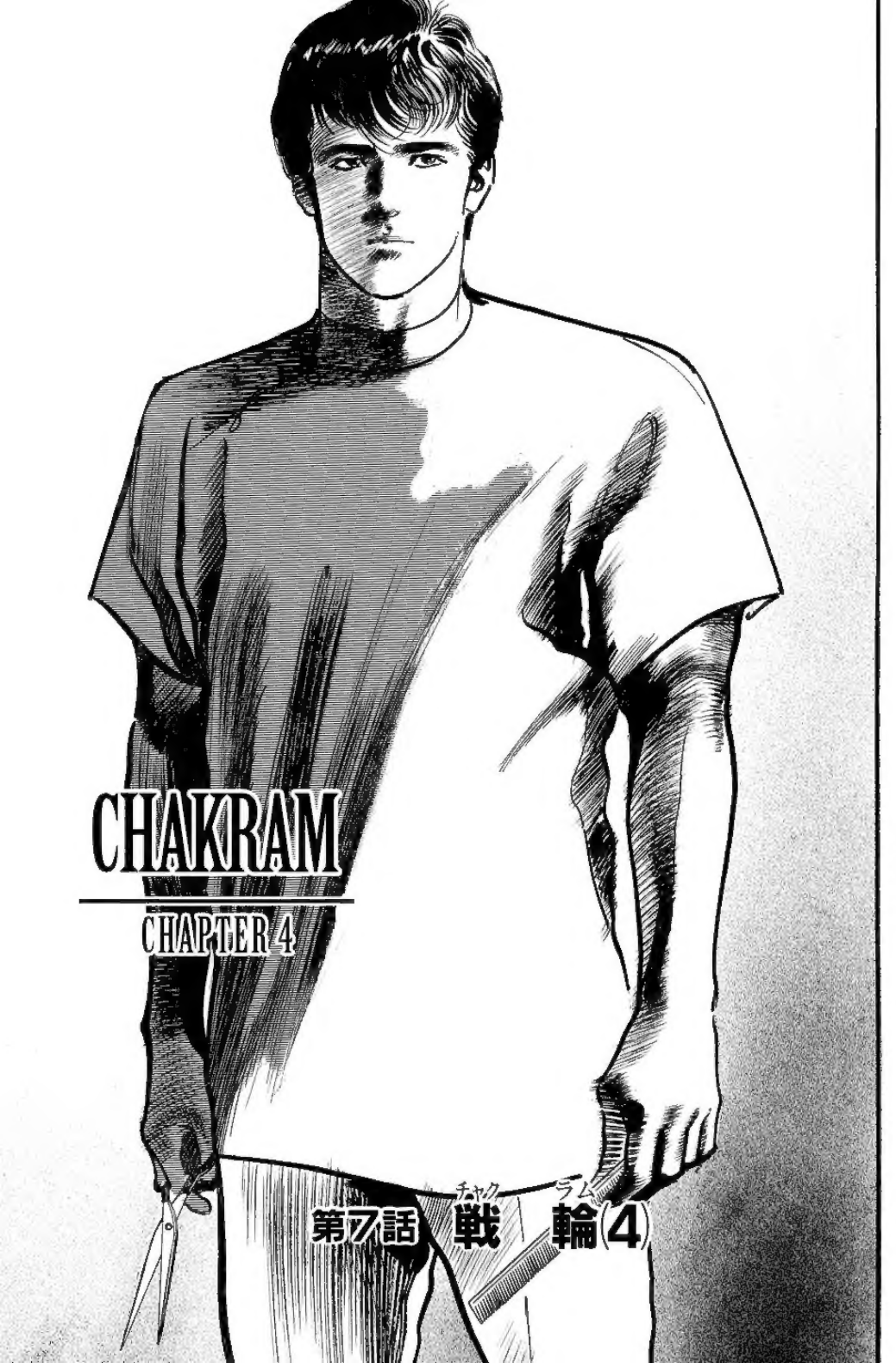


CHAKRAM

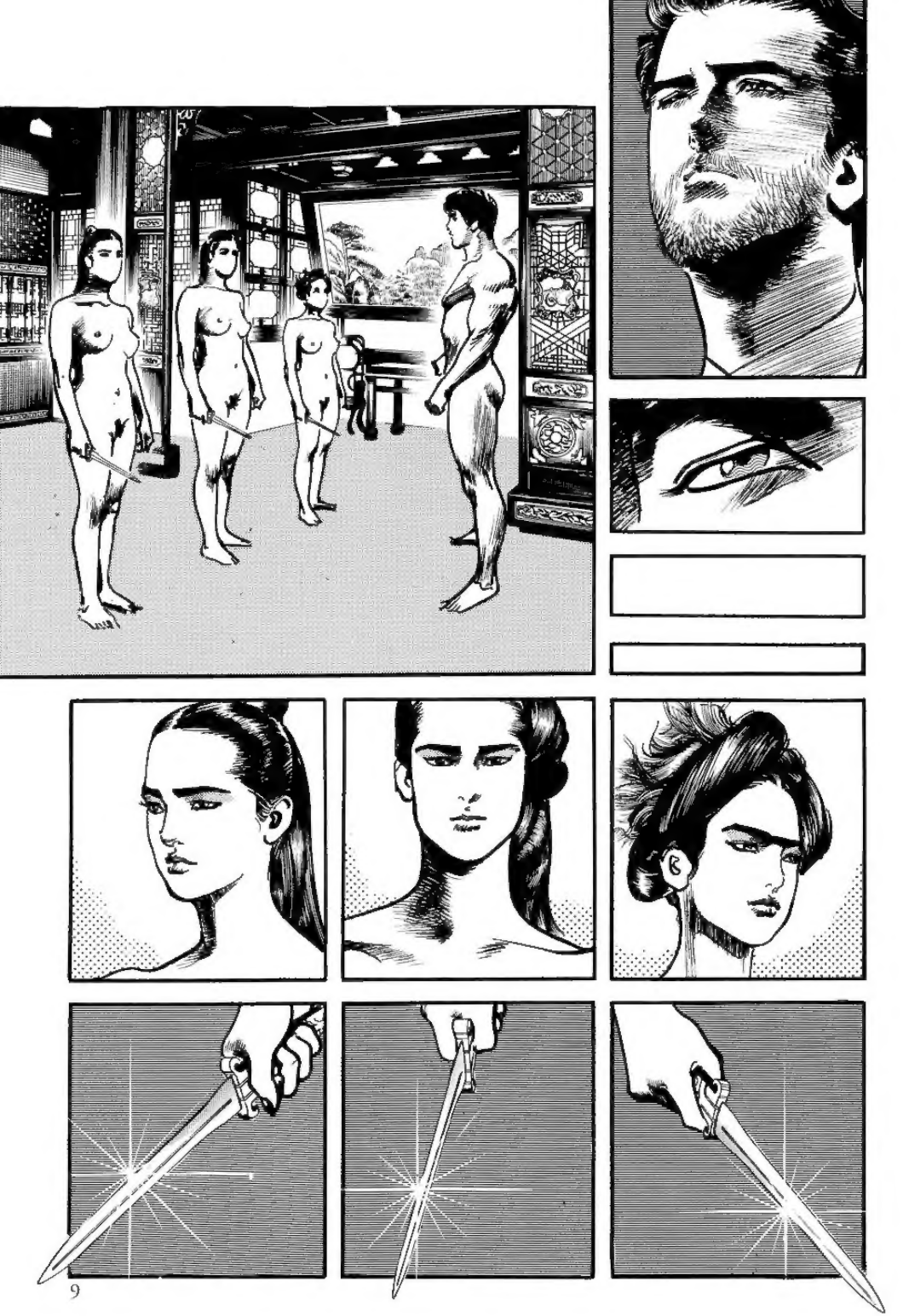
CHAPTER 4

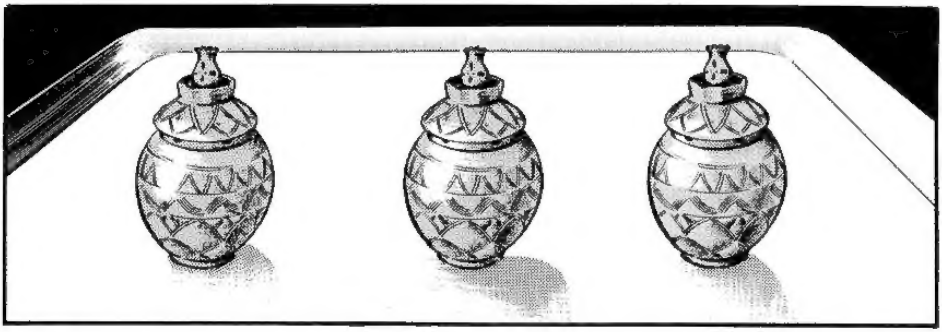
第7話 戦輪(チャクラム)(4)

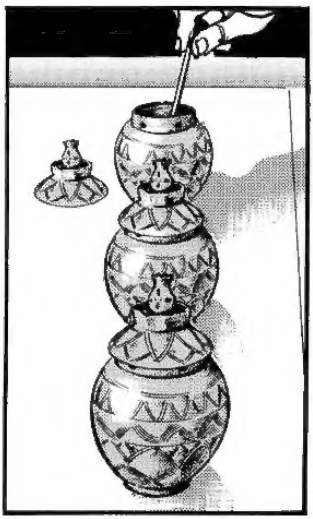
*FX: FWSHHH
ELDERS OF THE SHI XING XING! I WILL EXACT YOUR VENGEANCE! I SWEAR IT!

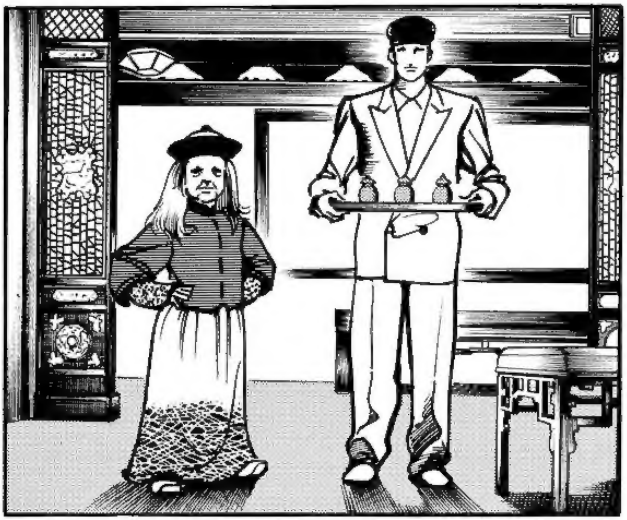
ELEVEN OF THE COSMETICS COMPANIES' PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN THREATENED.
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD! WE'VE SECURED THE ENTIRE SHIPMENT OF HIGH-QUALITY COSMETICS THAT WAS BEING EXPORTED FROM PARIS TO SOUTH AFRICA.
WE ALSO HAVE WORD THAT WE'VE BOUGHT UP THE MAJORITY OF HIGH-QUALITY COSMETICS IN JOHANNES-BURG.
HMM...
*FX: HMPH!
TELL THEM TO ADD AMBERGRIS TO THE MEN'S COSMETICS, PARTICULARLY VARIETIES OF COLOGNES, AND RELEASE THEM EXCLUSIVELY IN JOHANNESBURG.

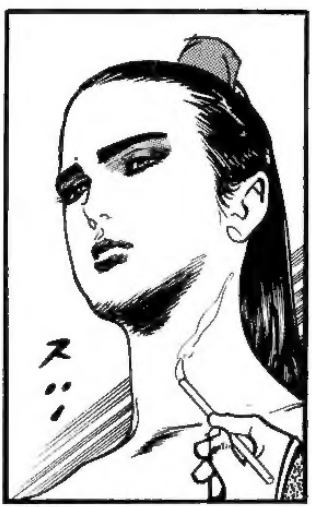
*FX: WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP
WE WERE DOWN-WIND AT THE TIME...
*FX: WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP!
SHIKEBARO USES EAU DE COLOGNE WITH ADDED MUSK...
THE SCENT OF SOME FRENCH PERFUME, THE MUSK OF A MAN'S COLOGNE, DRIFTED UP.

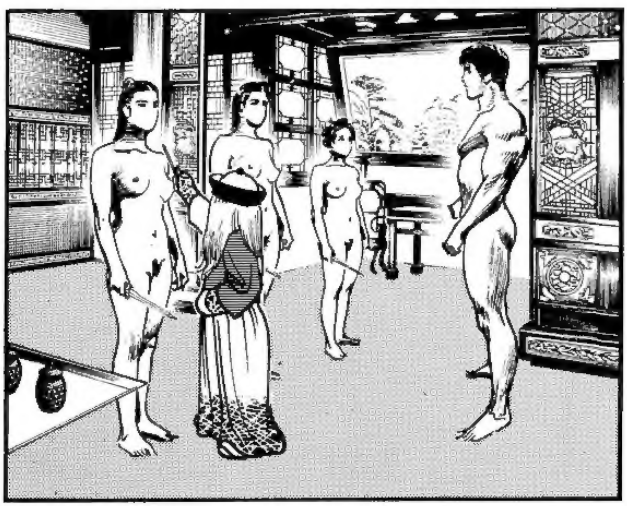




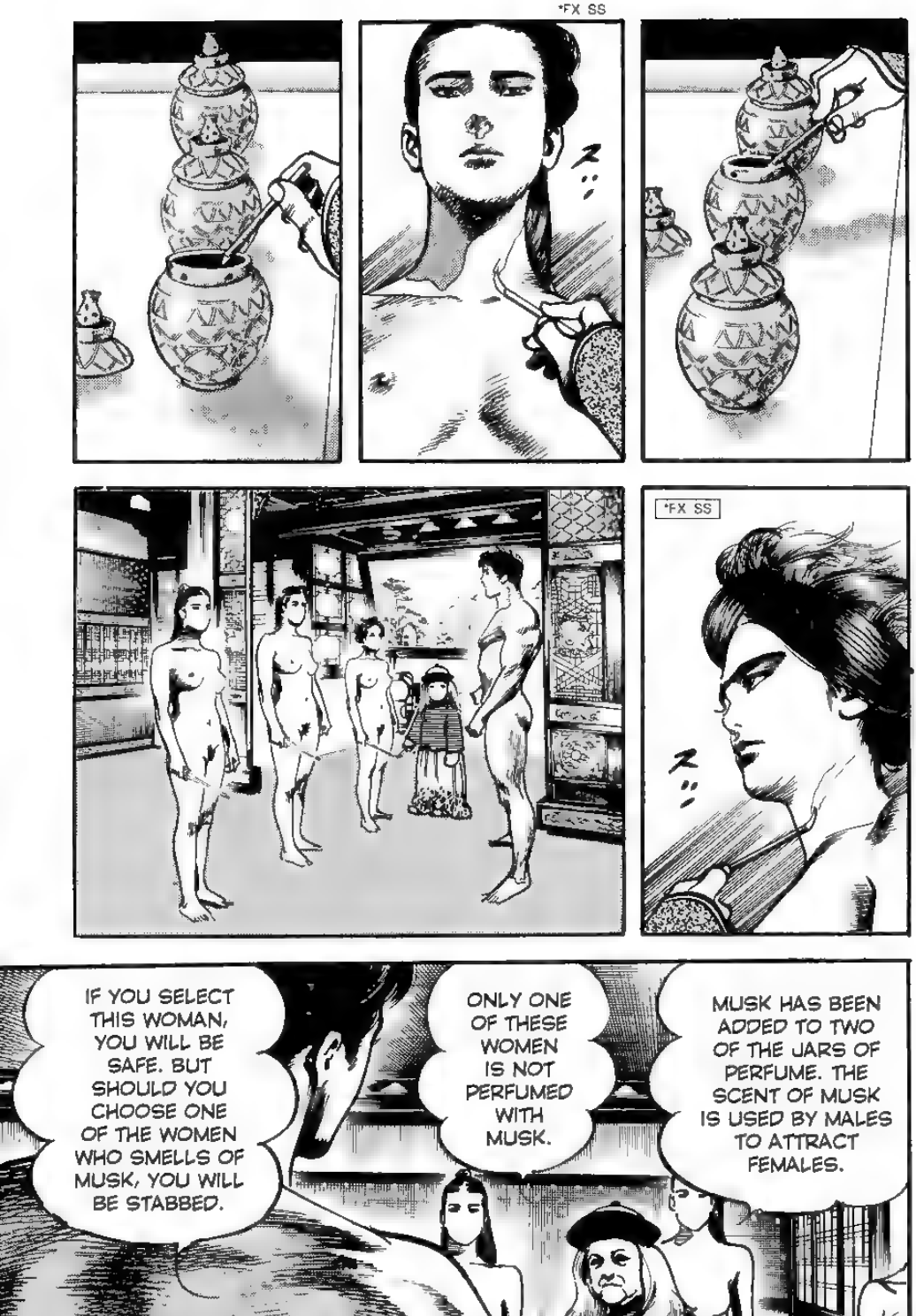


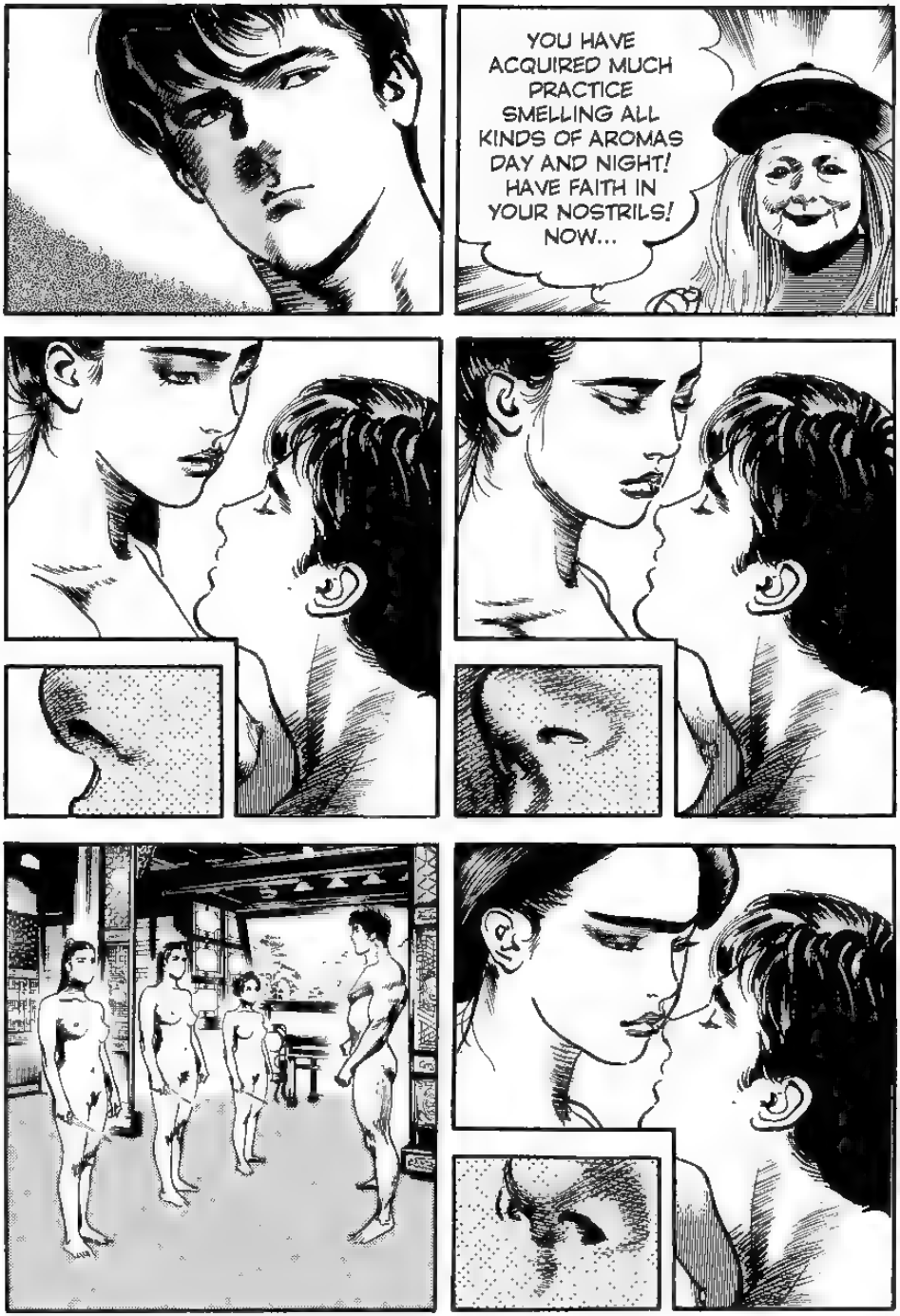






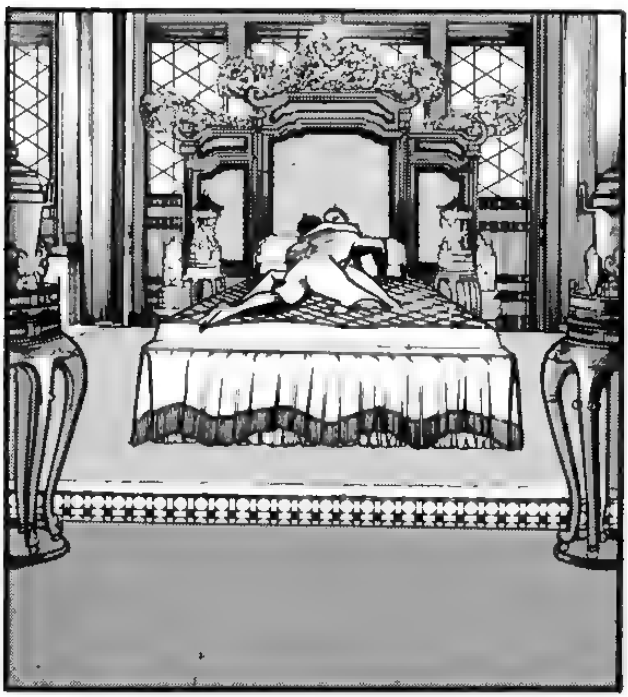
*FX: SS

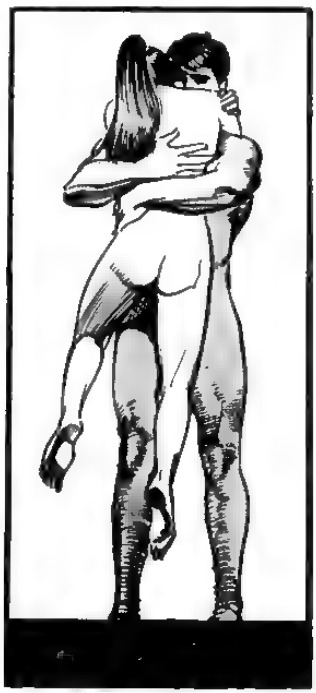

*FX SS
スッ
*FX SS
スッ
IF YOU SELECT THIS WOMAN, YOU WILL BE SAFE. BUT SHOULD YOU CHOOSE ONE OF THE WOMEN WHO SMELLS OF MUSK, YOU WILL BE STABBED.
ONLY ONE OF THESE WOMEN IS NOT PERFUMED WITH MUSK.
MUSK HAS BEEN ADDED TO TWO OF THE JARS OF PERFUME. THE SCENT OF MUSK IS USED BY MALES TO ATTRACT FEMALES.


YOU HAVE ACQUIRED MUCH PRACTICE SMELLING ALL KINDS OF AROMAS DAY AND NIGHT! HAVE FAITH IN YOUR NOSTRILS! NOW...

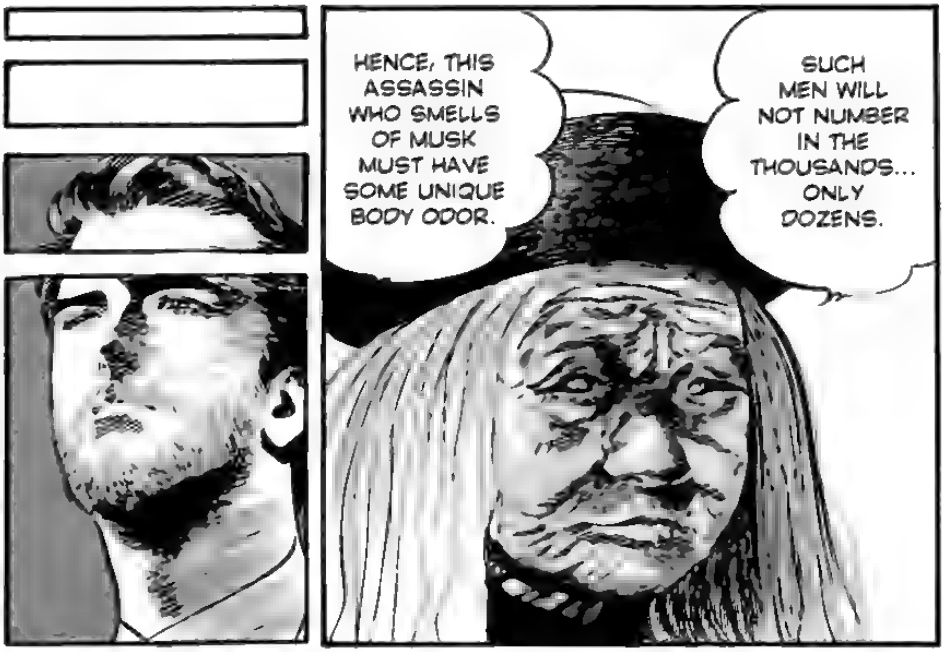
*FX SHFF
*FX SHH

ドズッ
FX SHUK

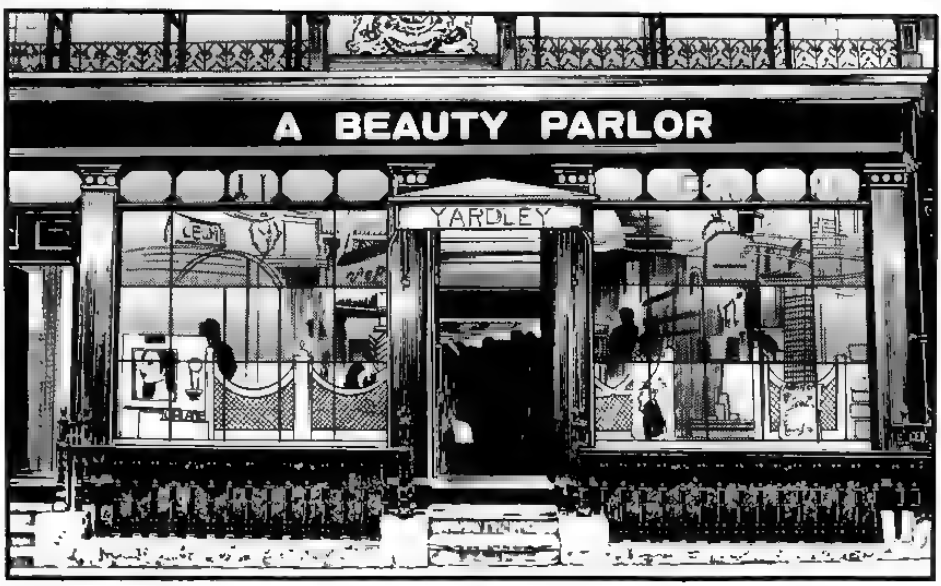


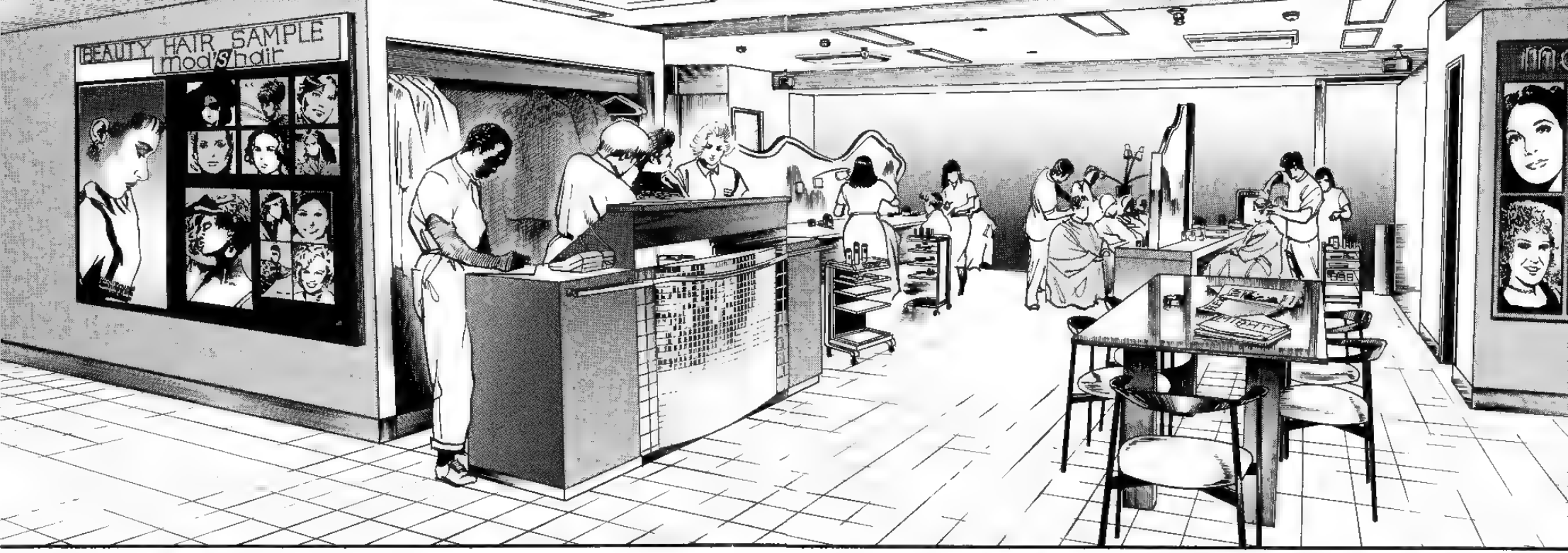


THE FIRST IS THAT HE DESIRES A WOMAN. MORE TO THE POINT, THAT HE DESIRES A WOMAN NOT WON SO EASILY.
WE CAN THINK OF TWO REASONS WHY A MAN WOULD WEAR A PERFUME LACED WITH MUSK.
BY APPLYING MUSK, HE BECOMES SIMPLY ANOTHER MAN WHO SMELLS OF IT.
FOR EXAMPLE, INTENSE BODY ODOR.
THE SECOND IS THAT HE ALREADY HAS SOME UNIQUE AROMA HIMSELF, SOMETHING UNUSUAL.


HENCE, THIS ASSASSIN WHO SMELLS OF MUSK MUST HAVE SOME UNIQUE BODY ODOR.
SUCH MEN WILL NOT NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS... ONLY DOZENS.

A BEAUTY PARLOR

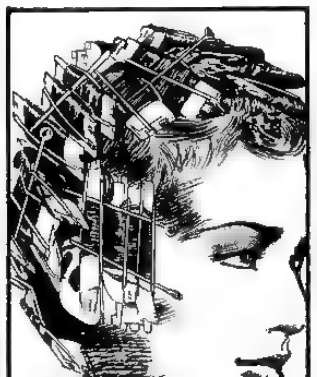



BEAUTY HAIR SAMPLE
mod's hair

...SINCE HE SHOWED UP! HE'S SO GOR-GEOUS!

PLUS, THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT GETS THE BEST COSMETICS!

THIS SALON IS SO GREAT NOW...



WELCOME, LADIES!
LOOKS LIKE YOU SCORED A REALLY NICE ONE THIS TIME, HMM?
VOGUE
PENTHOUSE
I FINALLY GOT HIM *HERE*, BUT IT'S ONLY A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT, AND TWO MONTHS ARE ALREADY UP!
HE PLACED TOP OF HIS CLASS AT AN INTERNATIONAL HAIRDRESSING SCHOOL. HE'S THE BEST THERE IS.
*FX YACK YACK
*FX HA HA

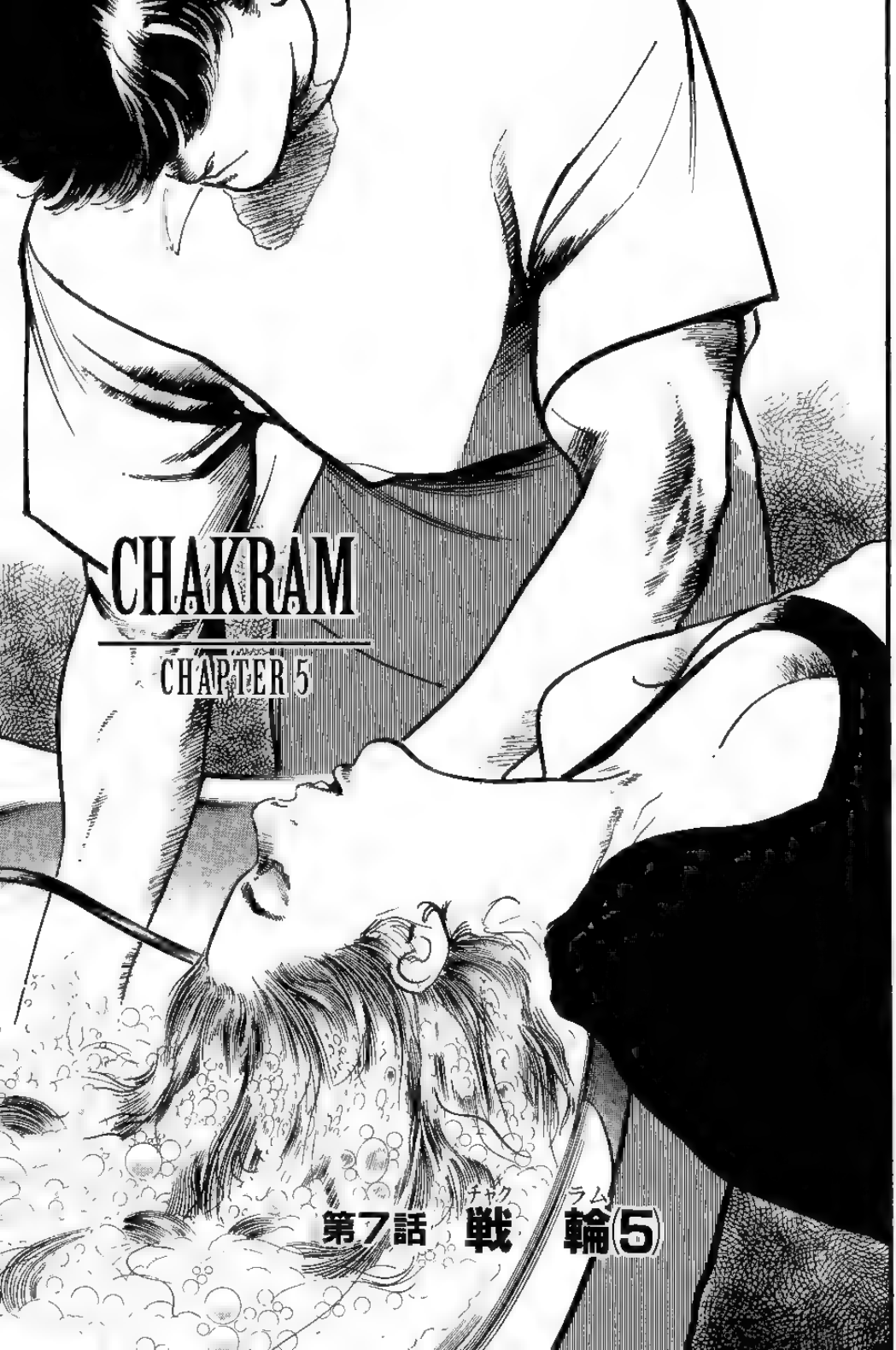
SAY, HOW ABOUT DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT?
SORRY. WE HAVE AN ORDER FOR A HAIRPIECE I HAVE TO MAKE TONIGHT.
THIS'D SURE LOOK GOOD ON YOU...
THE OWNER WOULDN'T ALLOW IT.

NO PROB-LEM.
WELCOME! I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE ABOUT AN HOUR'S WAIT...

*FX HJH?!

THE SMELL OF AMBER-GRIS...

THANK YOU FOR WAIT-ING.
*FX SNIFF SNIFF
HMM?!
YOU SMELL OF *AMBERGRIS*, THE WORLD'S FINEST SCENT...MADE ONLY FROM MATURE BLUE WHALES. JUST A WHIFF OF IT...



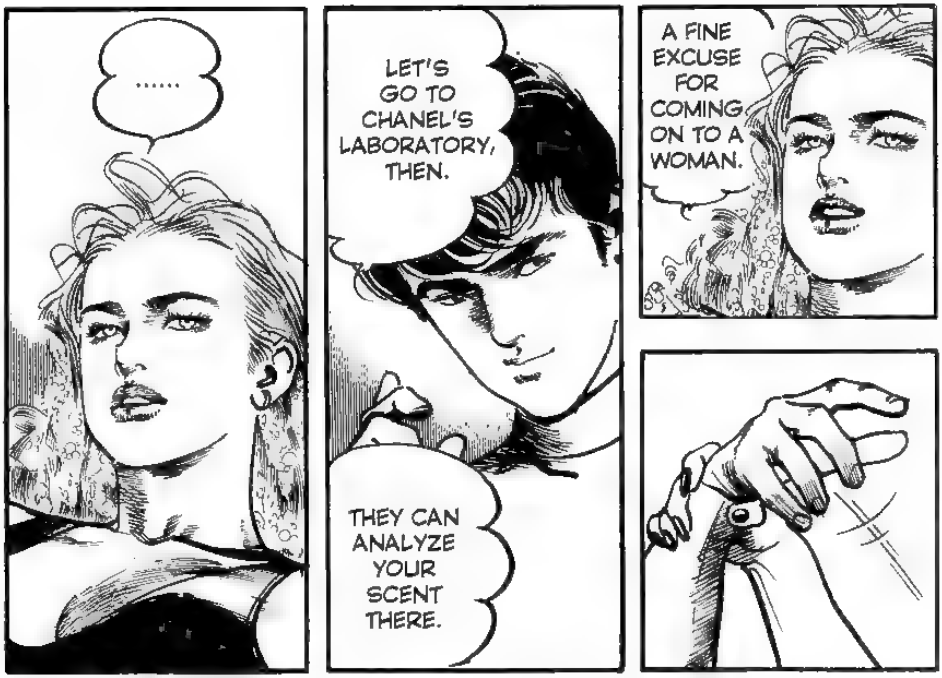
第7話　戦輪（チャクラム）⑤

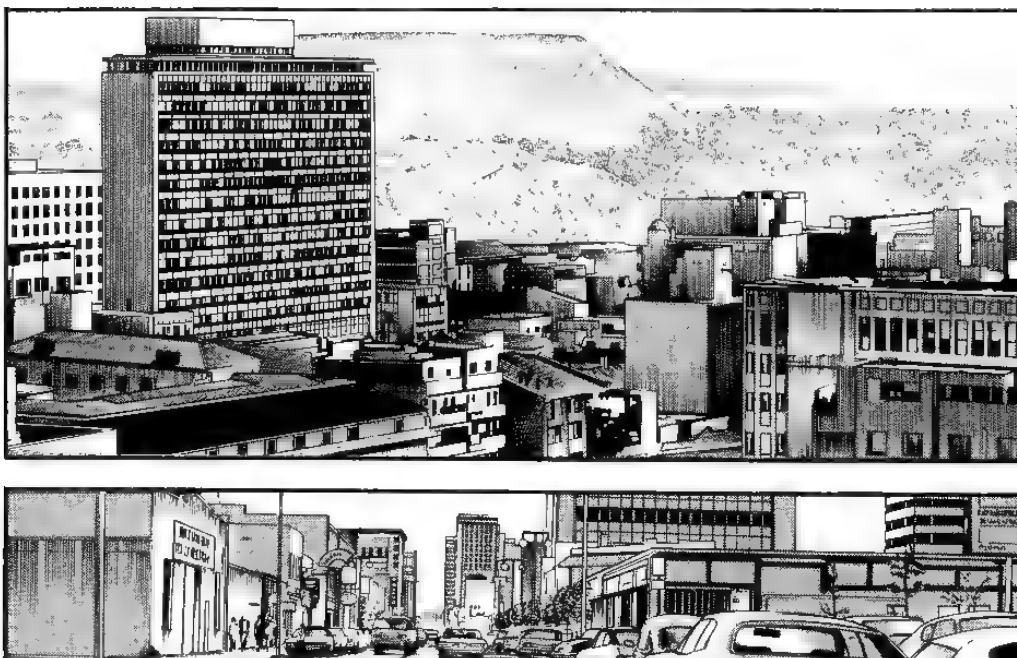
AMBERGRIS IS AN APHRO-DISIAC.
IT HAS NO EFFECT ON WOMEN, BUT WHEN A MAN SMELLS IT, HE IS DRIVEN MAD WITH DESIRE.
MEANING, THE SMELL OF AMBERGRIS ON YOUR BODY MAY HAVE COME FROM A MAN YOU SLEPT WITH...
...WHO FIRST HAD IT PASSED ON TO HIM BY A WOMAN OTHER THAN YOU.

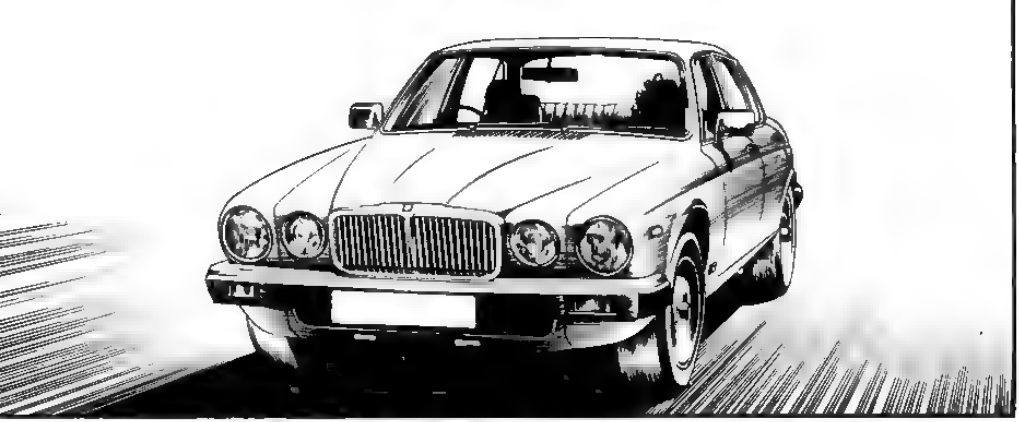
E- EXCUSE MY BOLD- NESS.
PERHAPS THIS WOMAN APPLIED AMBERGRIS TO HERSELF IN AN ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE MAN AWAY FROM YOU.
*FX. FWSH FWSH FWSH
YOU SMELL THE AMBER- GRIS, DON'T YOU?
SO IT MUST BE DRIVING *YOU* CRAZY TOO, RIGHT?

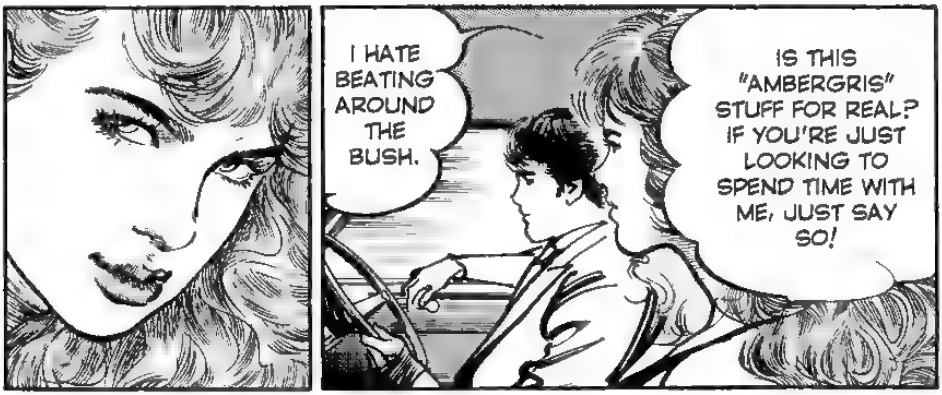
*FX SHH
*FX AHH!
*FX PLASH P ASH
*FX. GH GH GH

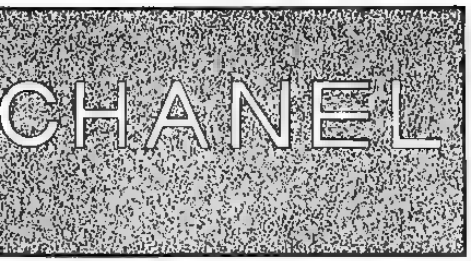
*FX HUHH HUHH HUHH
IT WAS YOUR FAULT, MA'AM...
...FOR SPREADING THE SCENT OF AMBERGRIS AROUND.
STOP !!
*FX SHGG

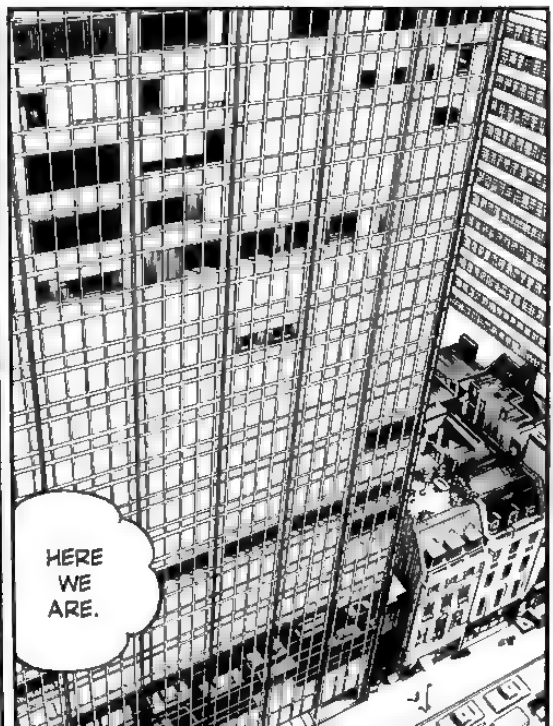

.....
LET'S GO TO CHANEL'S LABORATORY, THEN.
THEY CAN ANALYZE YOUR SCENT THERE.
A FINE EXCUSE FOR COMING ON TO A WOMAN.

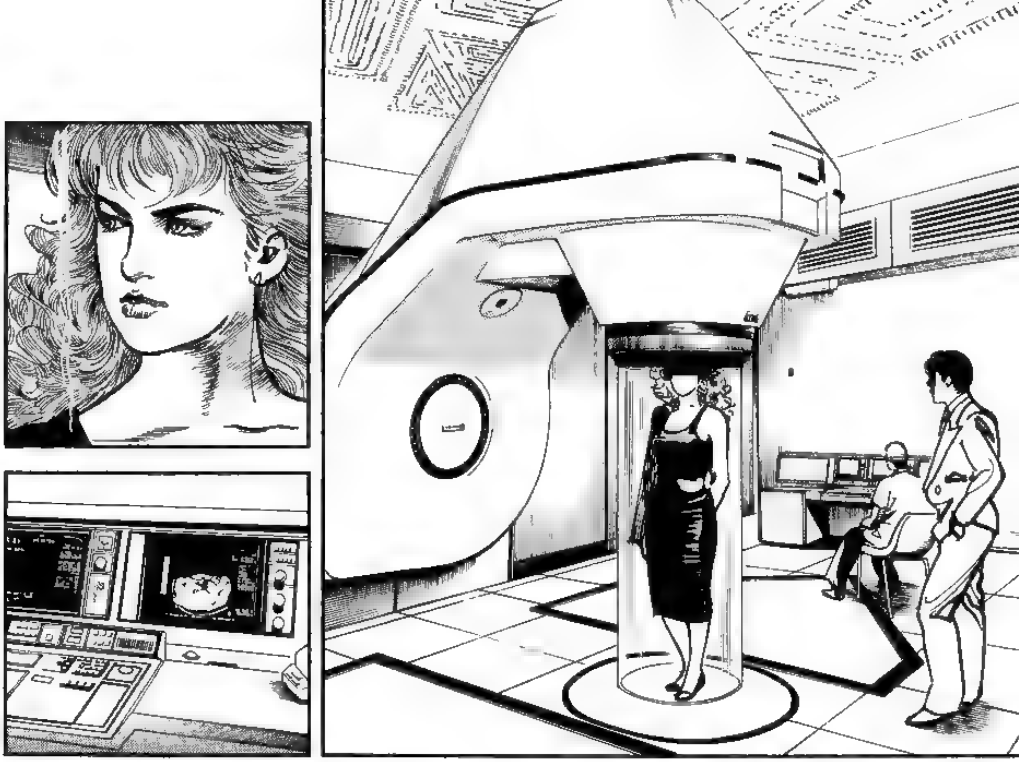


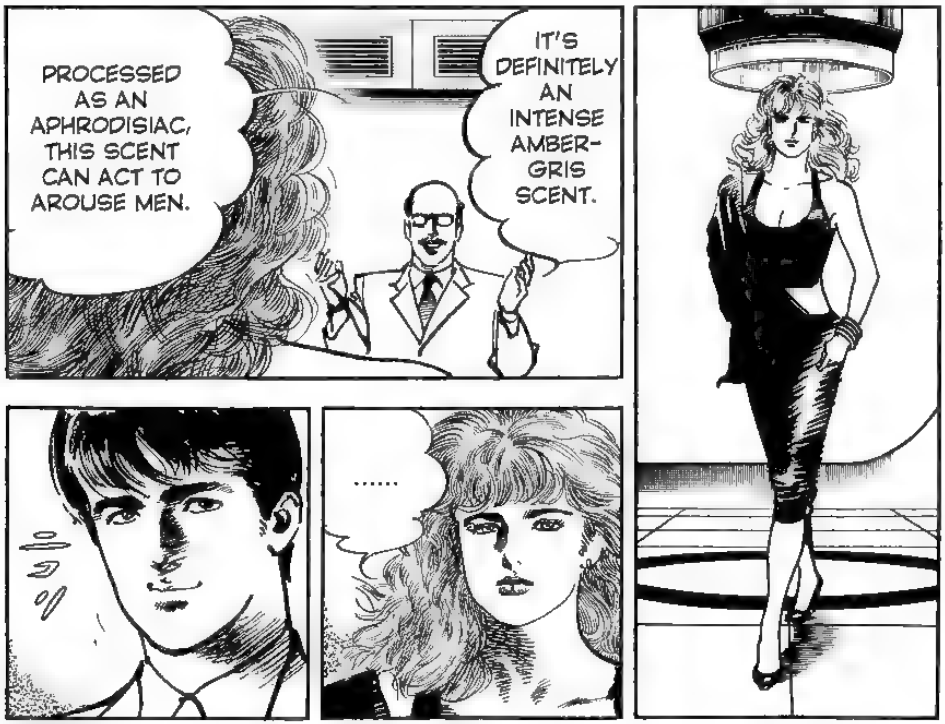



I HATE BEATING AROUND THE BUSH.
IS THIS "AMBERGRIS" STUFF FOR REAL? IF YOU'RE JUST LOOKING TO SPEND TIME WITH ME, JUST SAY SO!


CHANEL


HERE WE ARE.




PROCESSED AS AN APHRODISIAC, THIS SCENT CAN ACT TO AROUSE MEN.
IT'S DEFINITELY AN INTENSE AMBER-GRIS SCENT.
.....

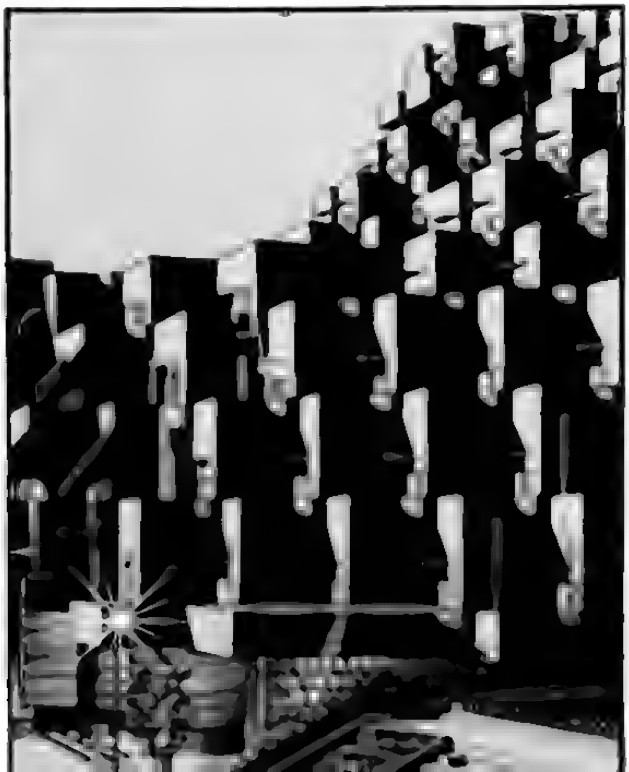
*FX SMILE

OHH!
OHH!
OHH!

AAHHH!! FUCK ME!!
*FX WHUMP WHUMP
*FX WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP

AHHH!!
SO BEAUTIFUL...! OUT OF THIS WORLD...!

*X SHING
NO. I'M FINE.
SHALL I TAKE YOU HOME?
WHAT'S YOUR PHONE NUMBER?
I'LL CALL YOU.
*FX SMILE



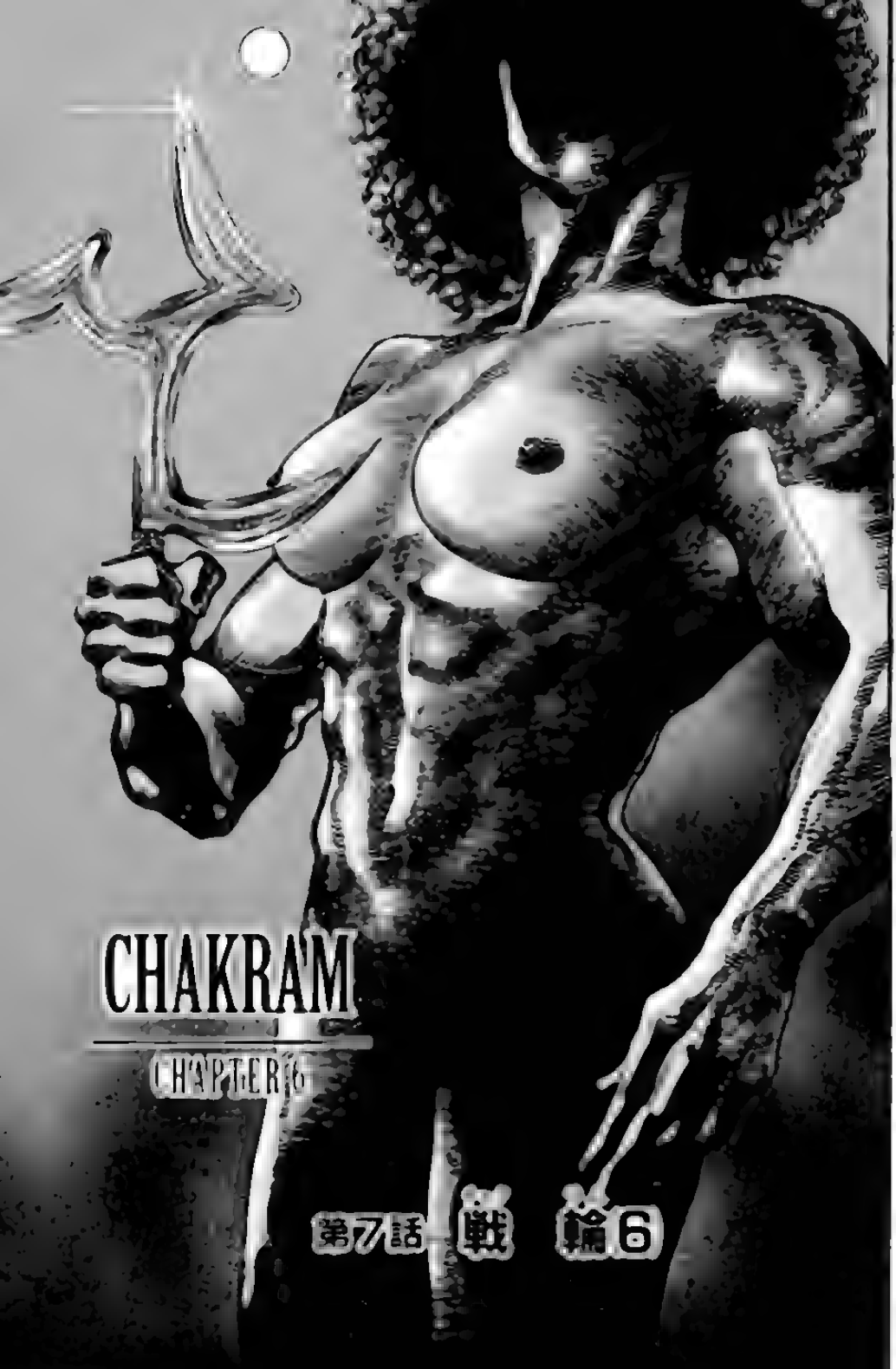
WHO ARE YOU ?!
WHO'S THERE?
*FX SHFF
LONG TAI YANG.

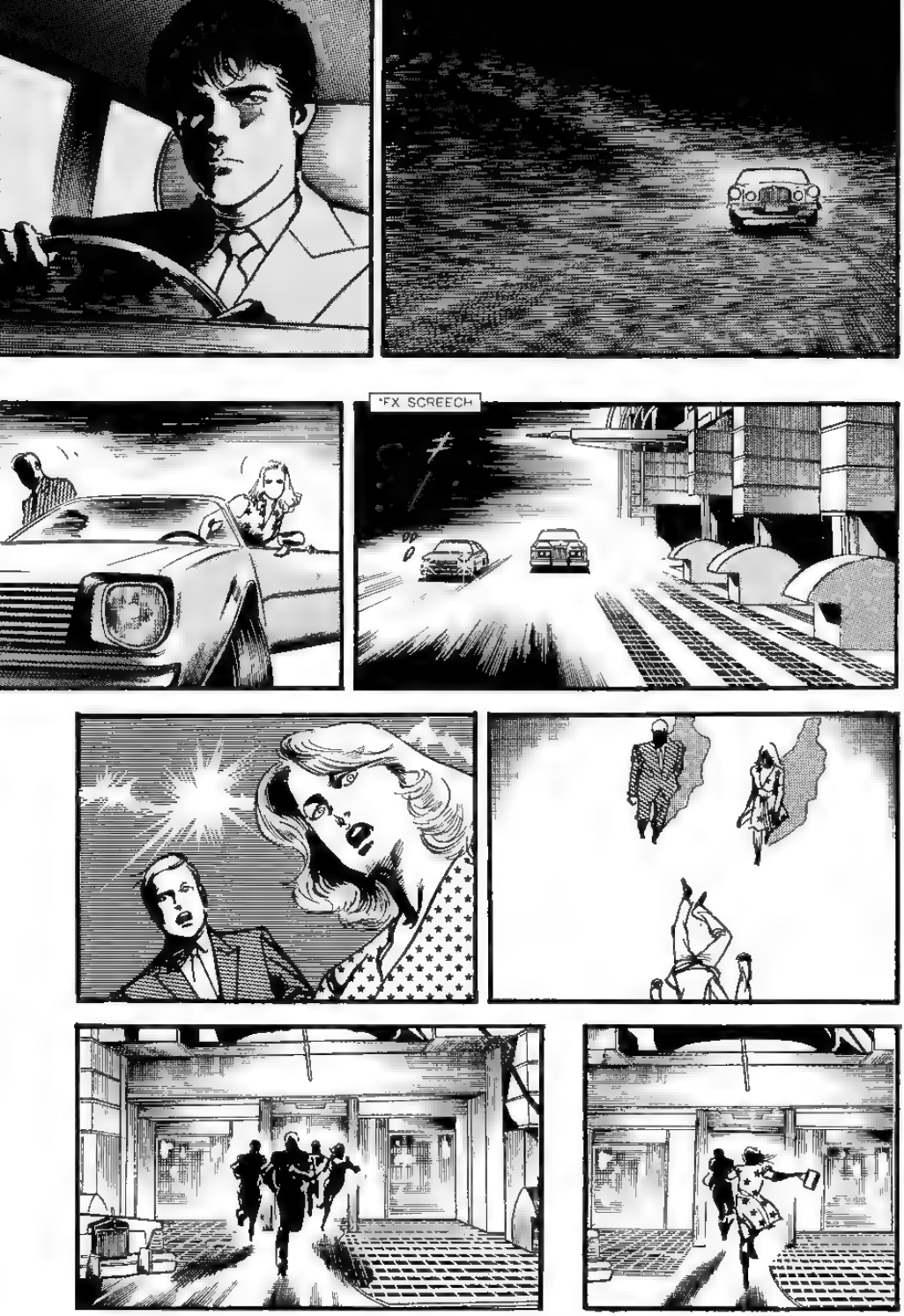
*FX THAK
*FX THAP

*FX CHANK

*FX SHUKK

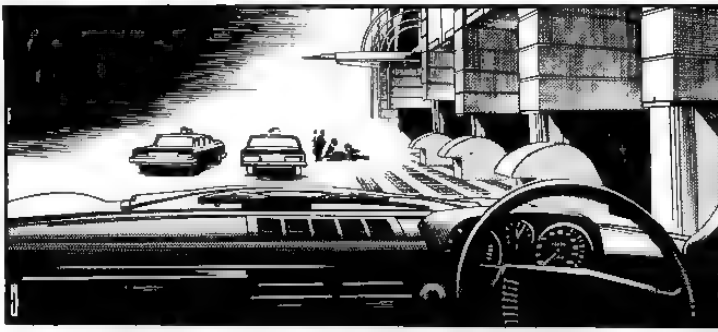
*FX SSS
Y-YOU SURVIVED ...?
YOU ARE... FREEMAN?
YES. I AM CRYING FREEMAN.
SO SHIKEBARO MAKES HIS LAST MISTAKE.

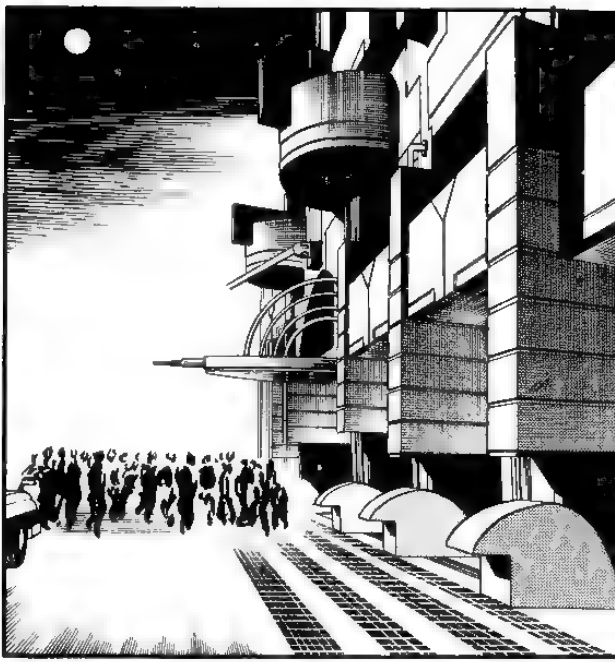

CHAKRAM
CHAPTER 6
第7話 戦輪6


*FX SCREECH

GK 426
EIDENTS ESCORT
*FX (sound of commotion)

*FX WEE-OO WEE-OO WEE-OO WEE-OO





FX AAAAH
*FX WHO

*FX: SCREECH

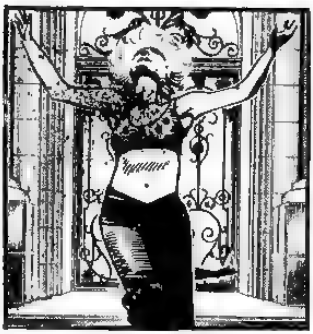
I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT SHIKEBARO HAS BEEN KILLED...
ASSEMBLE THE TROOPS, MIRANDA. I WILL INVESTIGATE THE SCENE MYSELF.

*FX SHFF
*FX FWUD
*FX CHUK

*FX FWUP
*FX WHD
*FX SHFF
*FX FWI

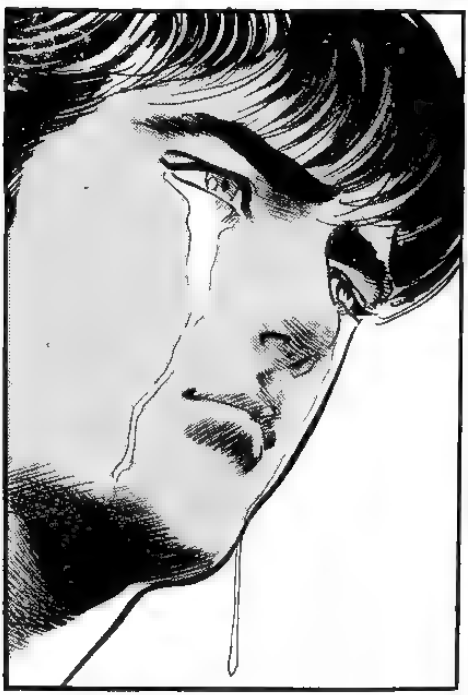
*FX THUKK
*FX FWUP
*FX SPTCH
M-MIRANDA...
*FX FSHHH
H-HOW DARE YOU... BRING THE GOD OF DEATH... TO ME?
FX URGH

URR
...



UGHH
...

*FX SPTCH



*FX CHAK
NOW THE ENTIRE AFRICAN TUSK ORGANI-ZATION WILL SURELY CRUMBLE.
IT'S FINALLY OVER ...
*FX FWISH

AAH !!
*FX THAKK
*FX FSHHH
*FX SHKK

I AM BUGNUG.
LEADER OF AFRICAN TUSK.

NO! I WAS CARE-LESS...
THERE WAS ANOTHER LEADER!
YOU MUST BE FREEMAN!

CHAKRAM
CHAPTER 7
第7話 戦輪7

*FX SHKK
*FX SHFF
*FX SHFF
*FX FWSH

*FX SHOKK
*FX FWSH
*FX THUK
*FX CHAKK
*FX FWISH

*FX THWIP
*FX WHUMP
*FX WEEE
FX WHD
*FX SHKK
*FX CLANK
*FX DRIP DRIP
*FX SHRIP

*FX FWIP FWIP FWIP
HOW BEAUTIFUL ... THEY SAY ONE WHO SIPS THE BLOOD OF A DRAGON WILL GAIN ETERNAL LIFE...
*FX WHO
*FX SHFF
SUCH A WASTE OF THAT PRECIOUS BLOOD.
YOU WILL DIE IN TWENTY MINUTES FROM THE BLOOD LOSS, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT FIGHT.

*FX FSHH
*FX THWACK
AAH!!
*FX SSK KSKK

FX SHH
FX FWISH
FX WHSHH
FX WHRR

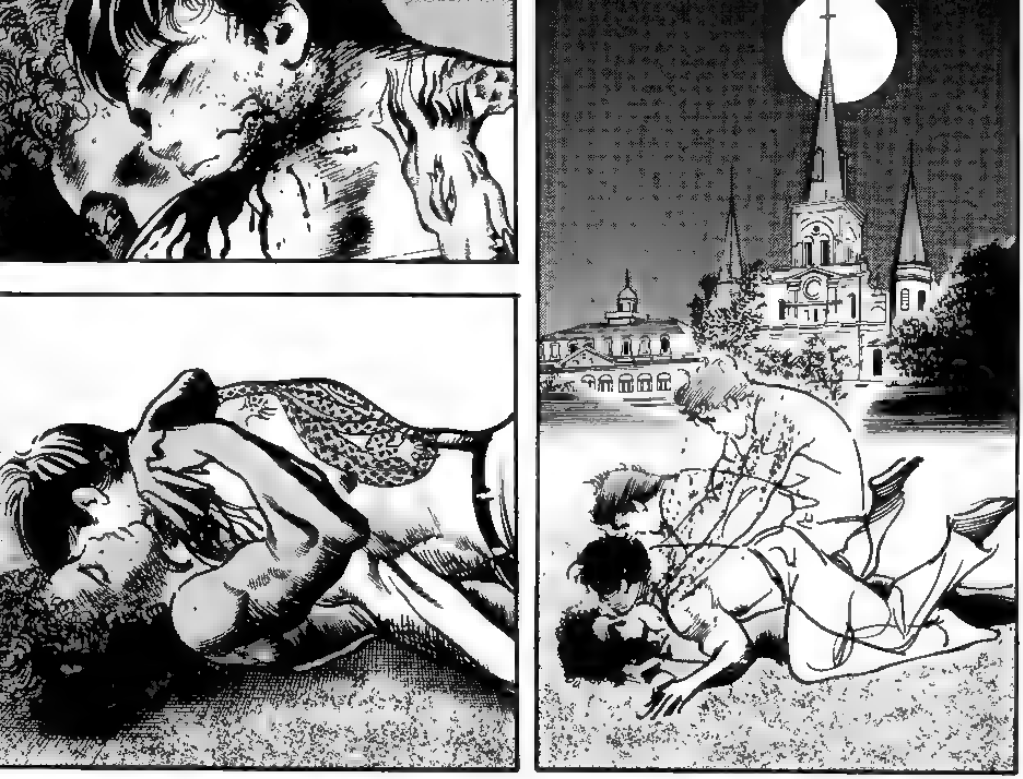
*FX SDD
*FX FWAP FWAP FWAP
*FX SHH SHH SHH
*FX WHD
*FX WHSHH
*FX WHSHH

URR
...
*FX GH GH GH
*FX GH GH GH

I'LL BITE IT OFF!
*FX TREMBLE

*FX DRIP DRIP
HNN
...
*FX SMILE

AN ANTEATER THAT DRINKS BLOOD? HAHAHAHA!
ANT-EATER!!
WHAT DOES THE NAME "BUG-NUG" MEAN?
*FX WHSH
ボタボタ
*FX DRIP DRIP



HE COULD HAVE KILLED ME, BUT HE DIDN'T. "I'LL BITE IT OFF!" HE SAYS!
HE HAD THE CONFIDENCE TO BELIEVE THAT I WOULD SAVE HIS LIFE! WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THIS?

HE MUST HAVE. TOO MUCH BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED OF THE 108 DRAGONS AND AFRICAN TUSK BOTH! THE SACRIFICES TOO GREAT ...
WAS HE TRYING TO TELL ME WE SHOULD STOP FIGHTING?

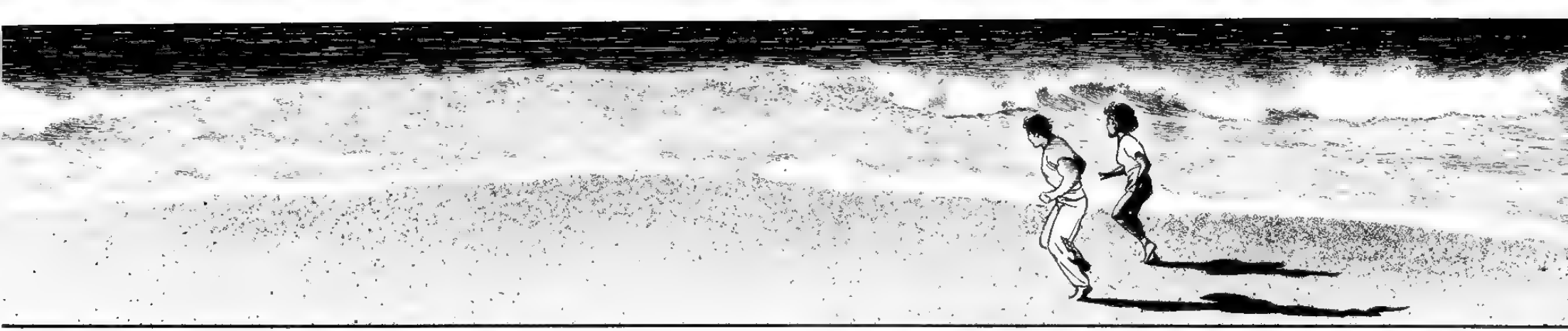
IF HE REALLY WANTED TO KILL ME, HE WOULD HAVE BIT-TEN IT OFF WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING...

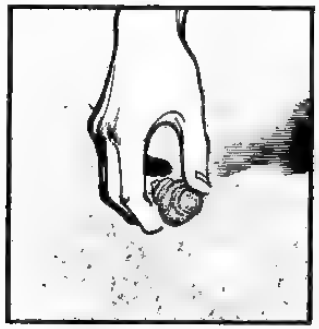
*FX VRRR
*FX RSS RSS
FX SCREEK
*FX SHKK
EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE! WE WILL SAVE HIM!
WE'RE SAVING THIS MAN'S LIFE! WE MUST!!
GET A DOCTOR! HURRY!!

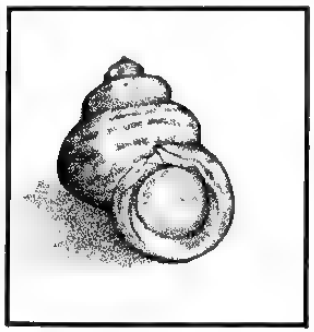
AHH...
THE BLOOD OF THE DRAGON HAS ENTERED MY BODY! NOW I SHALL LIVE FOREVER!!

MHHH
...
BOTH OF US TYPE B... WHO'D BELIEVE IT...?
I THINK I'M COMING ...

CHAKRAM
CHAPTER 8
第7話 戦輪(チャクラム)8







YES.
A SOUVENIR FOR YOUR WIFE?

*FX *HF

HER NAME IS HU QING LAN -- "TIGER ORCHID."
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE? SHE MUST BE JAPANESE, RIGHT?

*FX HUHH HUHH

*FX HAHH HAHH

I'M FINE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

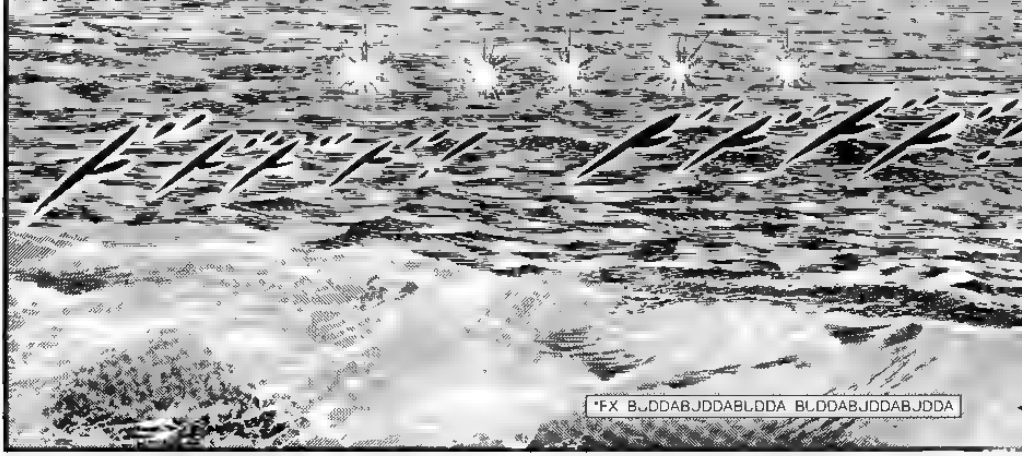
ALL RIGHT. I'LL CALL YOU "DARK EYES."
GIVE ME A NAME LIKE THAT, TOO! I HATE "BUGNUG"!!
"DARK EYES"... YES...

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY? WANTING TO GO RUNNING ALL OF A SUDDEN...
IT WAS INEVITABLE.
MANY HAVE DESERTED THE ORGANIZATION, AND ALMOST HALF OF THOSE WHO REMAIN HAVE BEGUN FEELING ANIMOSITY TOWARDS YOU.
AFRICAN TUSK HAS BECOME VERY FRAGILE NOW THAT THEIR NEW LEADER IS A *WOMAN*.
REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS BELIEVE THAT IF THEY KILL THE TWO OF US, THEY CAN BECOME HEADS OF THE ORGANIZATION.
COME ON ...
THIS AREA IS DANGER-OUS!
*FX HUH?!

*F.X. SHKK SHKK

AS I EX-PECTED.

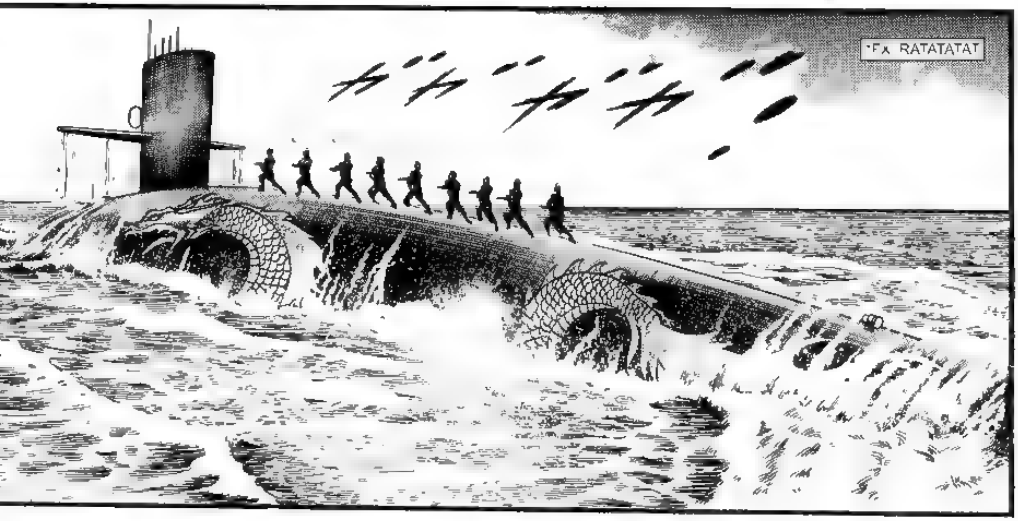
AAH!!


*FX BJDDABJDDABLDDA BLDDABJDDABJDDA

*FX PAFF PAFF PAFF

*X IDDABJDDABJDDA BLDDABJDDAB

FX RATATATAT


FX RATATATAT

I CAN LEAVE AFRICA NOW. THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION WILL OBEY YOU, DARK EYES.

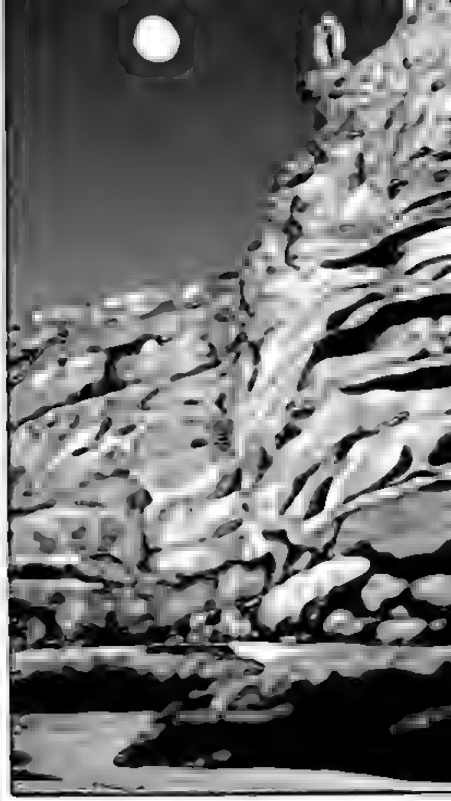
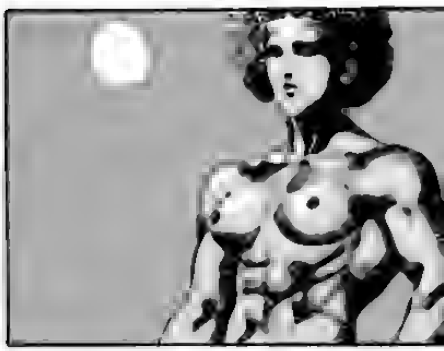
AHHH! AHHH!! DON'T PUSH SET ME
AHHH!! YOUR BLOOD IS IN MY BODY! MY BLOOD IS IN YOUR BODY!

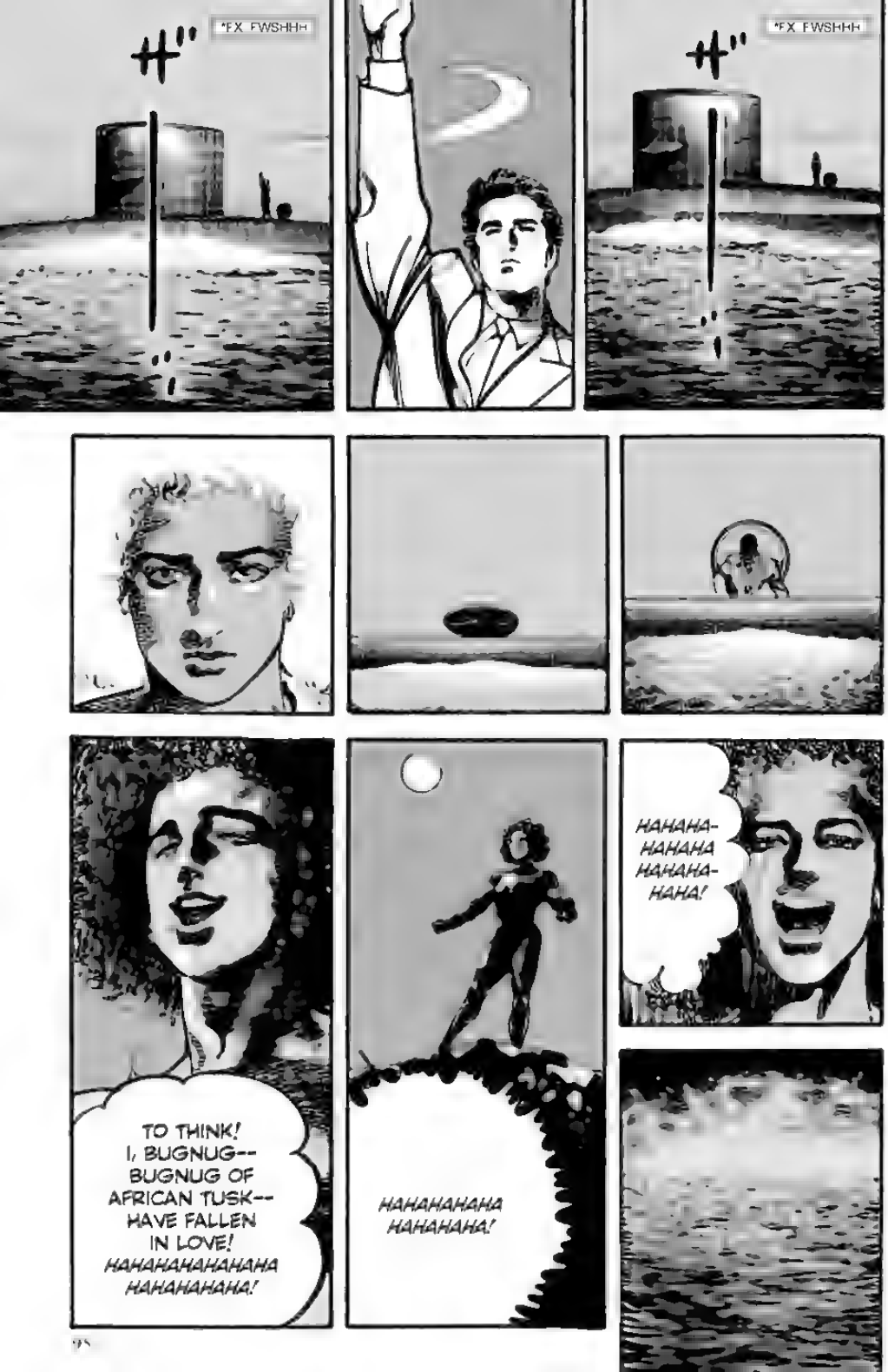
AAHHH!!

*FX MMMPH

WHEN... WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

WHEN I NEED YOU AGAIN, I'LL CALL YOU.

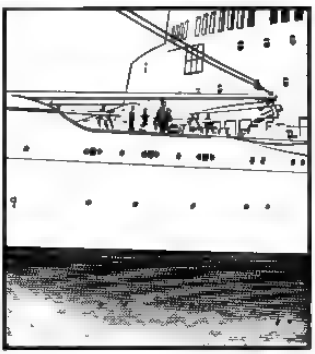



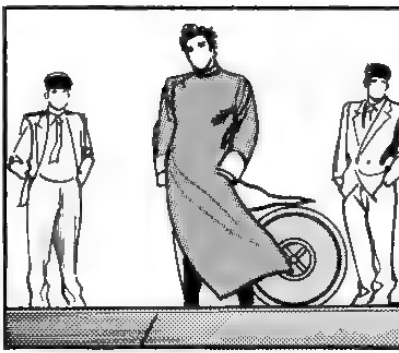

*FX FWSHHH
*FX FWSHHH
TO THINK! I, BUGNUG-- BUGNUG OF AFRICAN TUSK-- HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE! HAHAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAHA!
HAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA!
HAHAHA-HAHAHA HAHAHA-HAHA!

I BELONG TO LONG TAI YANG-- I AM DARK EYES!

BIG SISTER !!
*FX WHUMP
*FX THUMP THUMP
CALM DOWN, BAI YA SHAN! YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF AGAIN!
BIG SIS!!
NEVER MIND THAT NOW! BIG BROTHER'S COMING BACK! WE JUST GOT THE MESSAGE!
WHAT?!

*FX WHOOOSH
*FX FLAP FLAP
*FX FWSHH FWSHH





YOU WERE SURE GONE A LONG TIME! WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YA!
IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.
WELCOME HOME, DARLING.

I'M INVULNER-ABLE!
ARE YOU BETTER NOW, BAI YA SHAN?
EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SETTLED. THE ELDERS MAY NOW REST IN PEACE.
I JUST GOT BACK.
DRA-GON AND TIGER ... FINALLY TO-GETHER AGAIN.
YES. IT MAKES ME HAPPY.

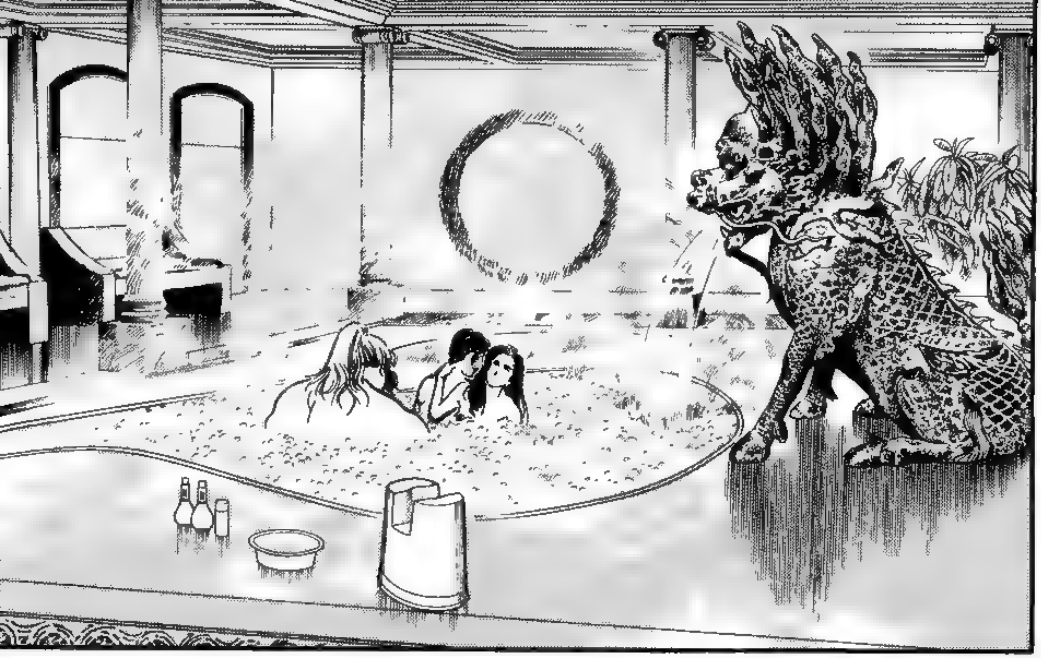
SISTER

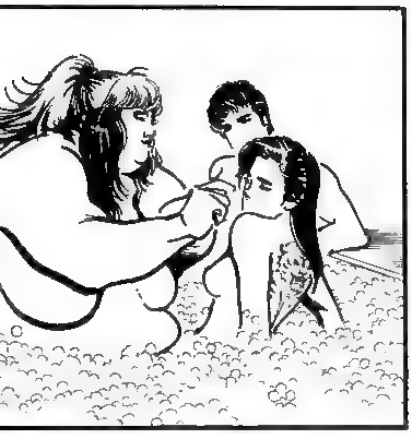
CHAPTER 1

第8話 姉 責(エ)(1)

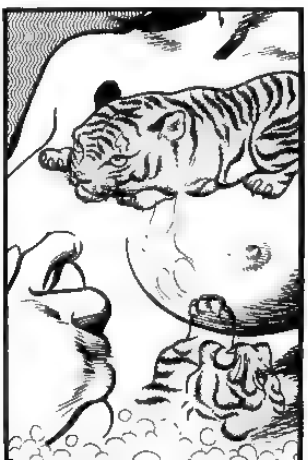
*FX: AHHHH
OHH... DARLING... COMING AGAIN...
MY LOVE...

*FX HRRR
ぶるる!
そ"
そ"
そ"
*FX SHIVER
-:HAH:-
-:HAH:-
-:HAH:-
YES, SISTER!
COME ON IN, BAI YA SHAN! YOU CAN WASH US OFF!

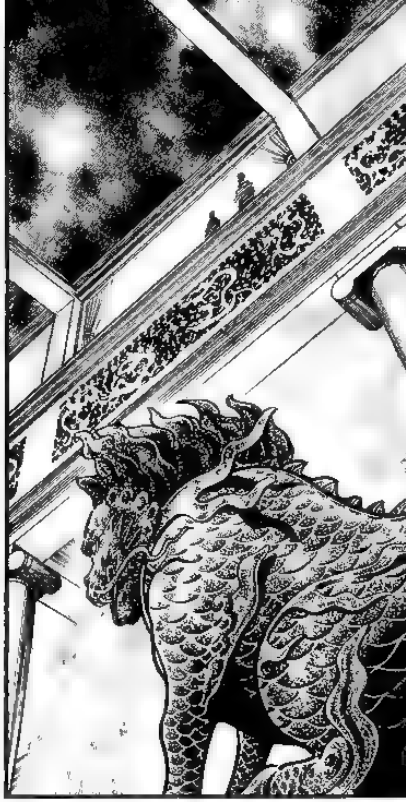




-:HAH:-
-:HAH:-
-:HAH:-



WHAT A WONDROUS SIGHT...



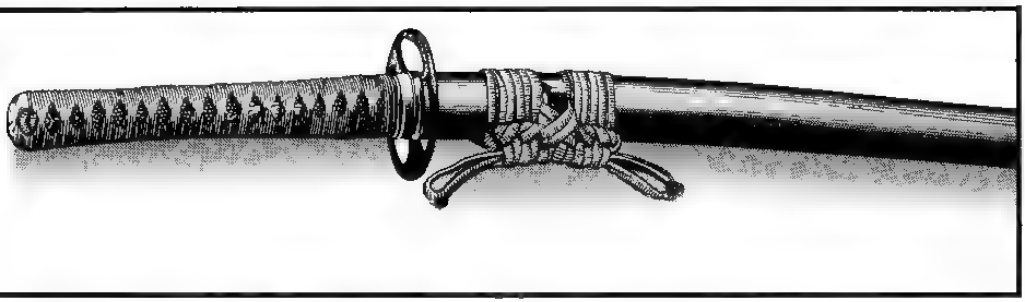
THE TRANSCENDENCE OF BOTH CONJUGAL AND SISTERLY LOVE...
THEIR THREE SPIRITS ARE IN COMMUNION.

BAI YA SHAN WAS THE ONLY ONE WE HAD TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT, BUT I WORRY ABOUT HER NO LONGER.
NOR I.

THEY OVERFLOW WITH COMPASSIONATE LOVE FOR BAI YA SHAN.
AND JUST WATCHING THEM MAKE LOVE BRINGS BAI YA SHAN TO THE SUMMIT OF HAPPINESS.

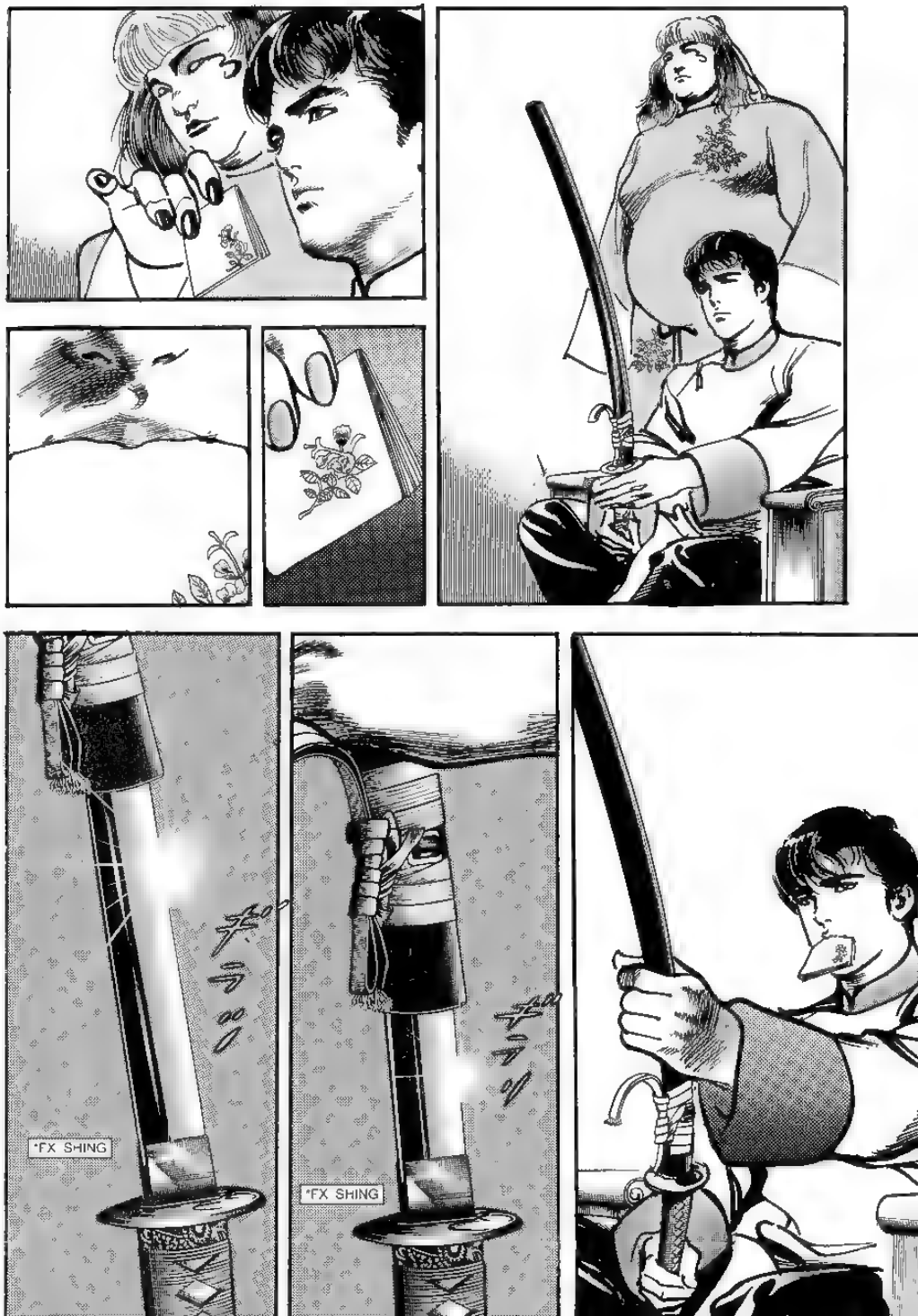
AHHH! CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE! CO... MING...
*FX HRRR
*FX WOBBLE WOBBLE
*FX YAY
*FX. SPLOOSH

HE HAS A GENUINE LETTER OF INTRODUCTION AND HAS ALREADY BEEN SEARCHED.
THIS SWORD WAS BROUGHT AS A GIFT BY A MAN NAMED *SHIRO KAIEDA*.



PLEASE. FEEL FREE TO INSPECT IT.

THIS SWORD IS CALLED "MURA-MASA."
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, MR. LONG.

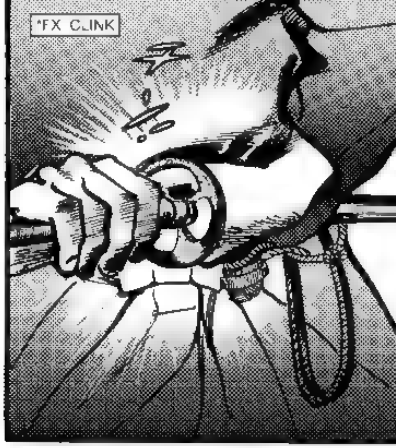

*FX SHING
*FX SHING

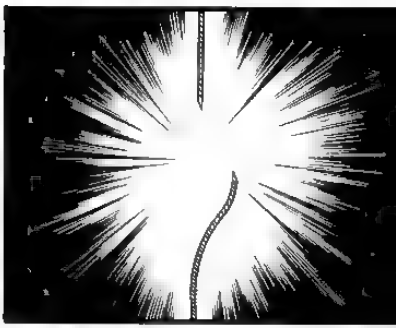
IEYASU TOKUGAWA LOATHED THIS SWORD, BELIEVING IT TO BE EVIL.
IT IS SAID THAT WHEN THE SWORD "MASAMUNE" WAS STOOD UPRIGHT IN A FLOWING STREAM, LEAVES BORNE BY THE CURRENT WOULD TOUCH THE BLADE AND BE CUT IN HALF TO CONTINUE ON DOWNSTREAM IN TWO SLICES...
BUT IN MURA-MASA'S CASE, THOUGH THE LEAVES WERE SLICED, THE HALVES WERE DRAWN TO THE BLADE AND STUCK TO ITS SIDES

WOULD YOU AT LEAST ALLOW ME TO DEMON-STRATE ITS SHARP-NESS?
NO.
THE 108 DRAGONS ...
...ACCEPT PAYMENTS IN CASH ONLY. YOU MAY LEAVE.
TODAY, IT IS AN ESPECIALLY PRECIOUS SWORD, VALUED AT 200 MILLION YEN IN JAPAN.
PLEASE TAKE THIS SWORD, AND IN EXCHANGE LEND US YOUR STRENGTH.
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH ...
I SEE.

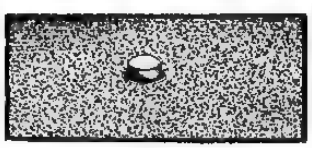
I DID NOT EXPECT THIS TO GO AS SMOOTHLY AS I'D WISHED.
*FX. SHFF
HEH HEH HEH! IN OTHER WORDS, WITH ONE STROKE I CAN SLICE EVERYTHING WITHIN A THREE-METER RADIUS IN TWO!
I, SHIRO KAIEDA, OF THE ICHIDEN SCHOOL OF SWORDSMANSHIP, CAN DRAW MY SWORD IN A SIX-METER ARC!
*FX. FWSHH
SSN

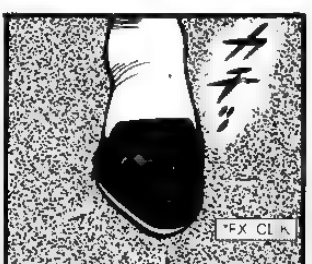
*FX SHFF


*FX CLINK



*FX WHUMP




*FX CL K

FX SMIRK
THE TIME HAS COME FOR FREEMAN OF THE 108 DRAGONS, ASSASSIN OF THE CENTURY, TO MEET HIS END!

*FX. SHHH SHHH SHHH

*FX FWSHH
*FX WHANCK
*FX WHD
*FX WHUMP

*FX THUK

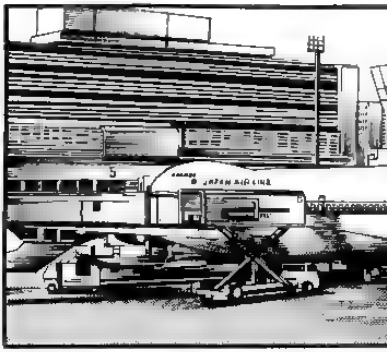
YOU HAVE CANCER OR SOME-THING, RIGHT?
*FX SHHH
I HAVE SIX MONTHS ... HOW DID YOU KNOW?
URR...
I WILL RETURN YOUR SWORD. WHERE ARE YOUR RELA-TIVES?
WELL ... DONE ...
YOU WERE BOASTFUL OF YOUR TECH-NIQUE.
I... HAVE NONE.
YOU SHOW THE OSTENTATION AND GLORIFICATION OF A DYING MAN. AND AN ASSASSIN THAT HAS NO NEED TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE MUST BE TERMINALLY ILL.
*FX THUNK

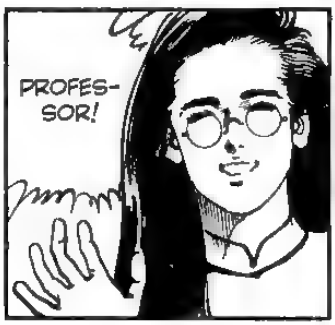
SISTER

CHAPTER 2

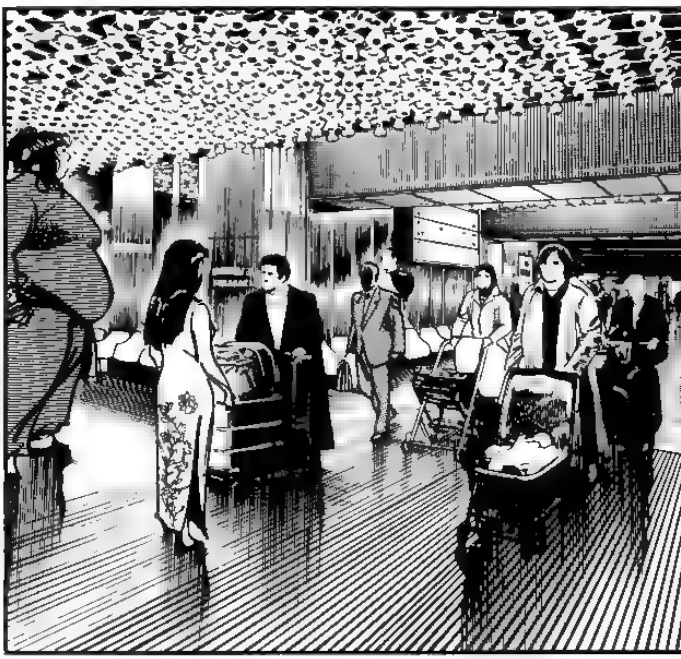
第8話　姉（シエ）貴(2)

*FX VWOOO



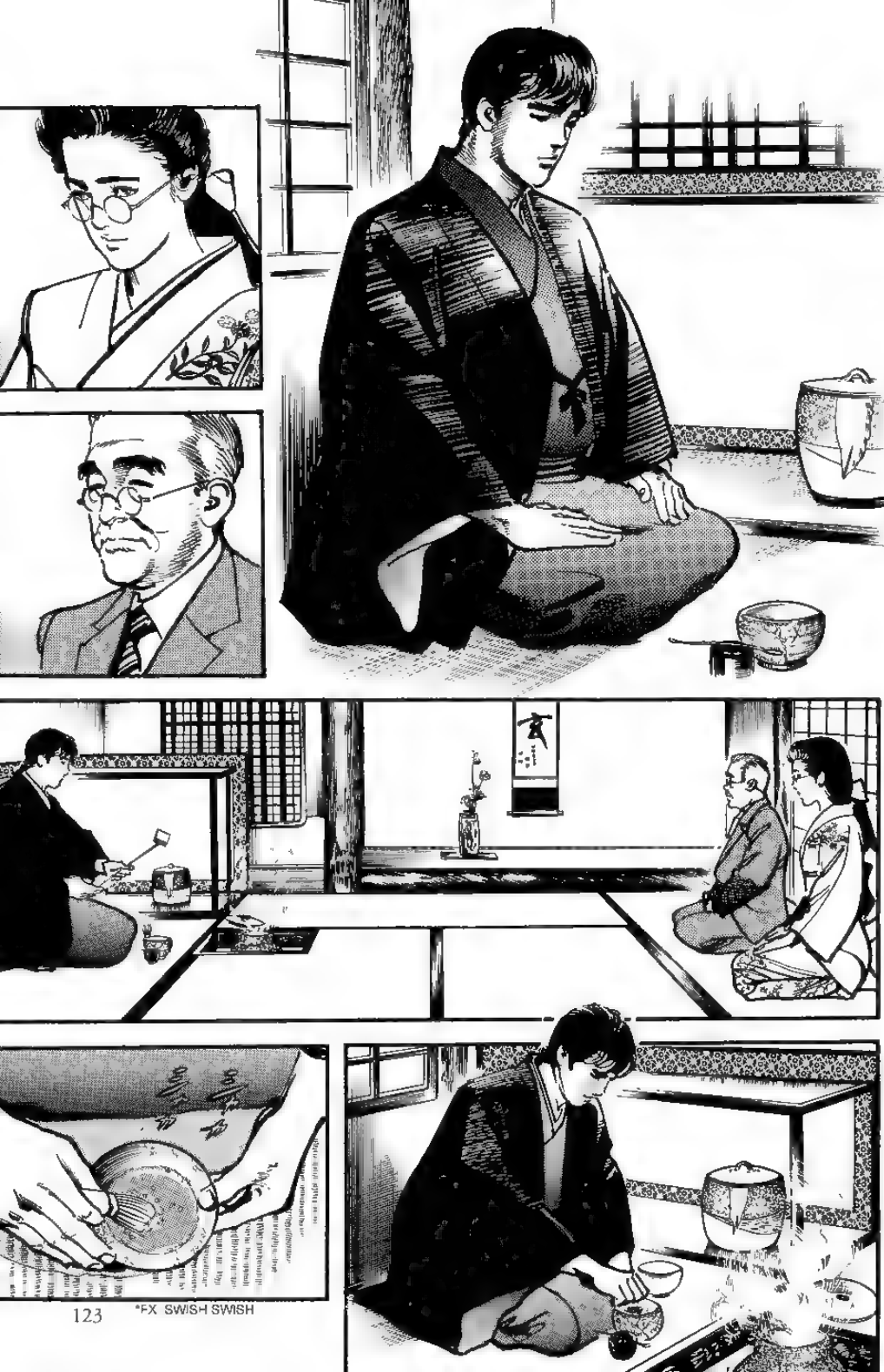

PROFES-
SOR!

OH!
A-HA!!



SO YOU SAY THAT YOU'VE MARRIED A LOCAL? *MMPH!* YOU SEEM VERY HAPPY!
YOU HAVE BECOME EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, PROFESSOR. SORRY FOR NOT KEEPING IN TOUCH.
I'M BAI YA SHAN! HER LITTLE SISTER! *HAHAHA!*
I'M VERY HONORED AND PLEASED TO MEET MY SISTER'S OLD UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR!
MY *BIG* LITTLE SISTER!
YES ...
*FX SMILE

FX VRRRMMM



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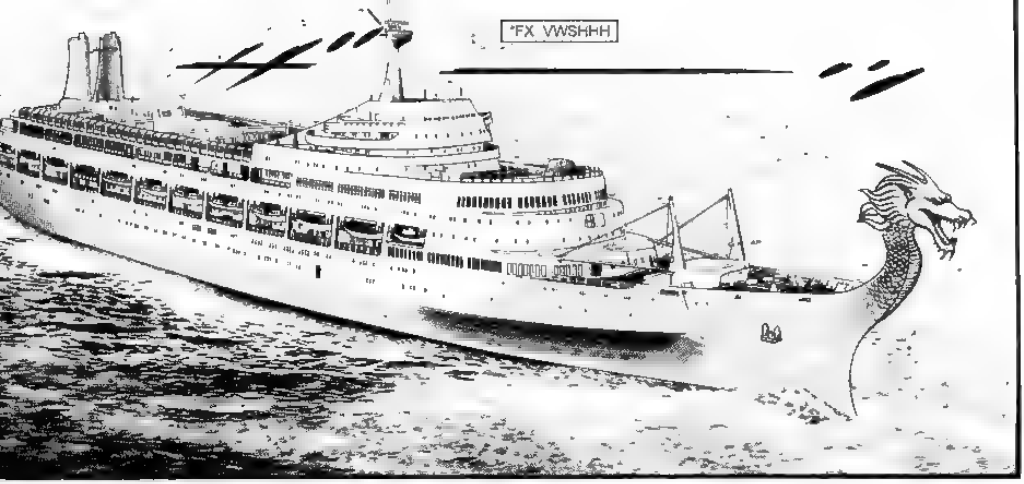
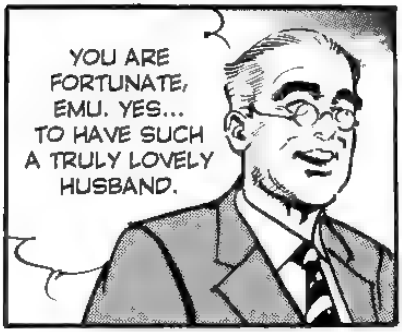
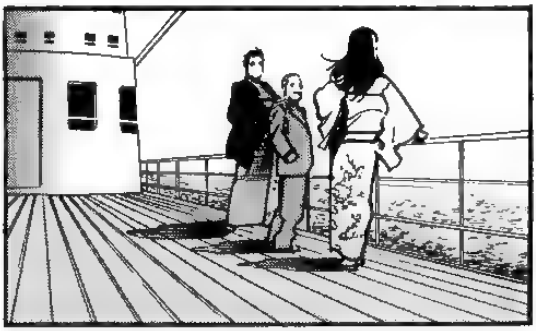
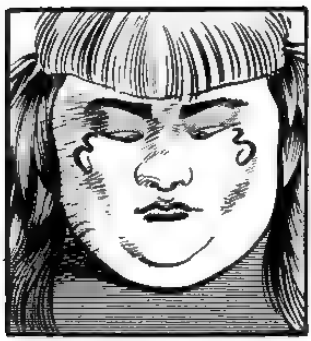
*FX SWISH SWISH

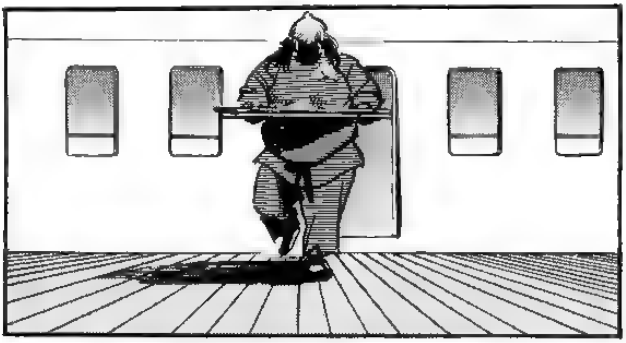
I WOULD. THANK YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, DOCTOR MIKAGE. WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER SERVING?
YOUR TEA CEREMONY PRESENTATION IS EXCEPTIONALLY FINE!
I WOULD LIKE ONE AS WELL, PLEASE.

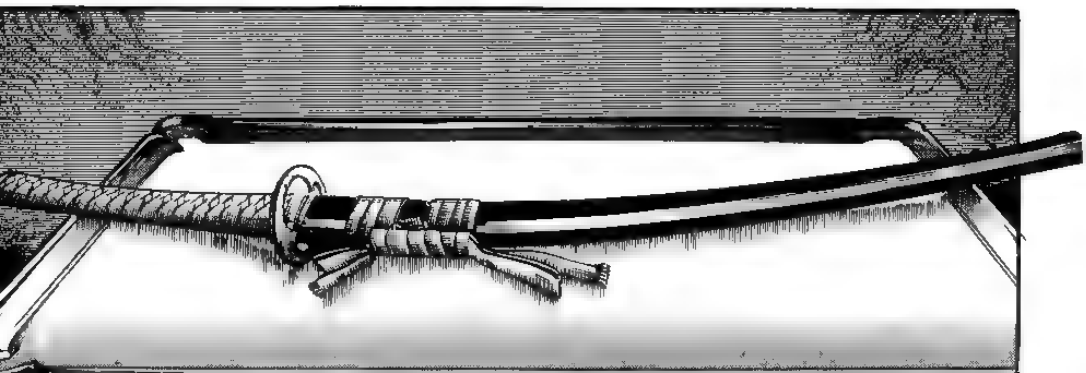

*FX VWSHHH

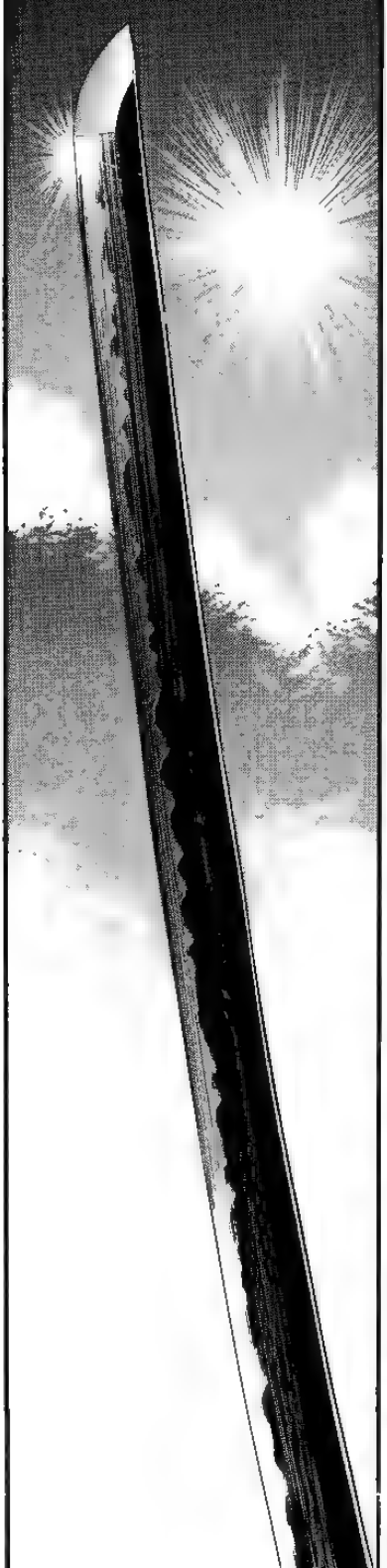

YOU ARE FORTUNATE, EMU. YES... TO HAVE SUCH A TRULY LOVELY HUSBAND.

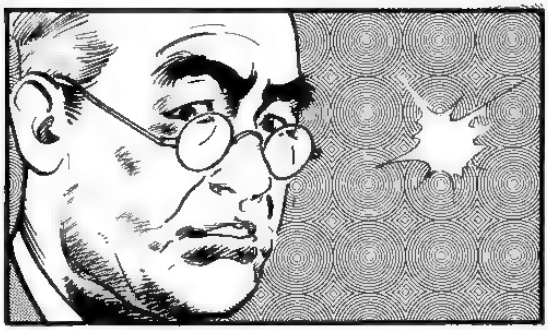


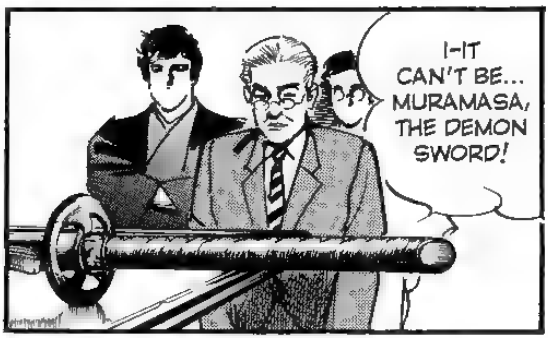




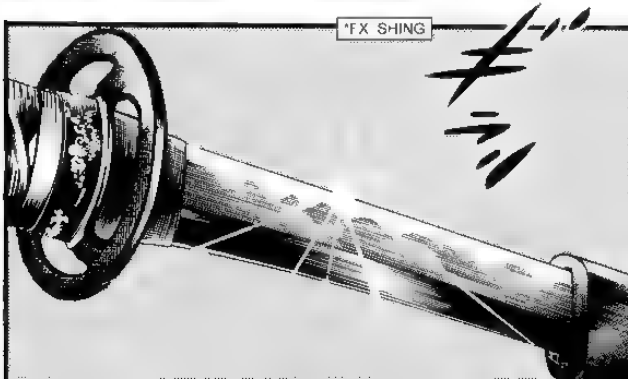







I-IT CAN'T BE... MURAMASA, THE DEMON SWORD!

LET'S SEE...

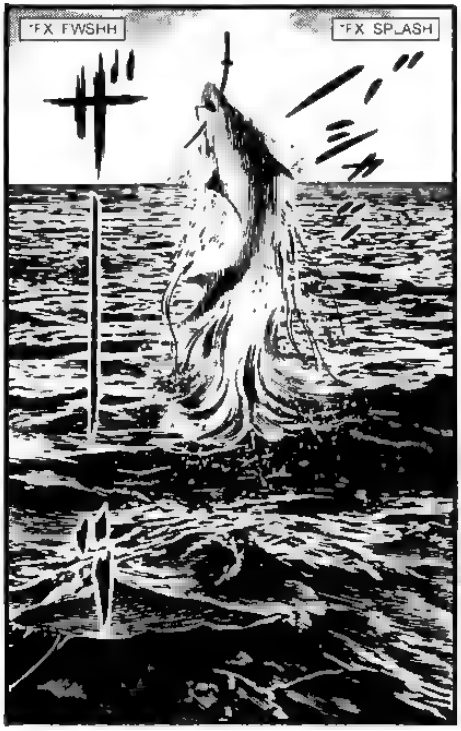

*FX SHING

IT HAS DRUNK THE BLOOD OF TOO MANY, AND NOW THE WHITE TEMPERED EDGE SHIMMERS BLACK. IT IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF NO OTHER BLADE BUT THE DEMON SWORD MURAMASA.
THERE'S NO MISTAKING THIS BLADE'S NIE *...
*NIE A TYPE OF SMOKE LIKE PATTERN THAT APPEARS ON THE SURFACE AND EDGE OF JAPANESE SWORDS AND WHICH VARIES ACCORDING TO HOW THE BLADE IS FORGED
FAMED ON THE BLACK MARKET...?
IT IS SO FAMED ON THE BLACK MARKET, IT'S SAID TO BE WORTH NO LESS THAN 200 MILLION YEN.
IT WAS STOLEN?
AMONG COLLECTORS IT HAS LONG BEEN SAID TO BE A VERY ILL-OMENED SWORD.
YES... IT WAS STOLEN FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN LONDON THIRTY YEARS AGO.

THIS SWORD TOPPLED THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE, AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY NONE WHO HAVE POSSESSED IT SURVIVED LONG
THIS SWORD BROUGHT ABOUT THE DEATHS OF ALL OF THEM.
IN THE SO-CALLED BLACK MARKET OF ARTS...
...THEY SAY ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WON THIS SWORD AT AUCTION HAVE SOON DIED.
*FX TOK TOK
*ENGR

THIS HAS BEEN AN UNPLEASANT ENCOUNTER. IT CANNOT BE KEPT. IT CANNOT BE THROWN AWAY. IF YOU TRY TO GET RID OF IT, YOU WILL SUFFER ILL CONSE-QUENCES.
*FX FWOOSH
*FX SHIFF
*FX SHING

...HIS REASON BEING HE FEARED THAT IF HE THREW IT AWAY AND SOMEONE ELSE FOUND IT, MISFORTUNE WOULD THEN FOLLOW *THEM*.
I'VE HEARD THAT SOMEONE ONCE TRIED TO BREAK THE SWORD...


*FX FWSHH
*FX SPLASH

BUT MURAMASA SPRANG BACK UNBROKEN AND EMBEDDED ITSELF IN THE CHEST OF THE MAN WHO TRIED TO BREAK IT.

*FX AAH

*FX SWISH
*FX SPLASH

*FX SPLOOSH!

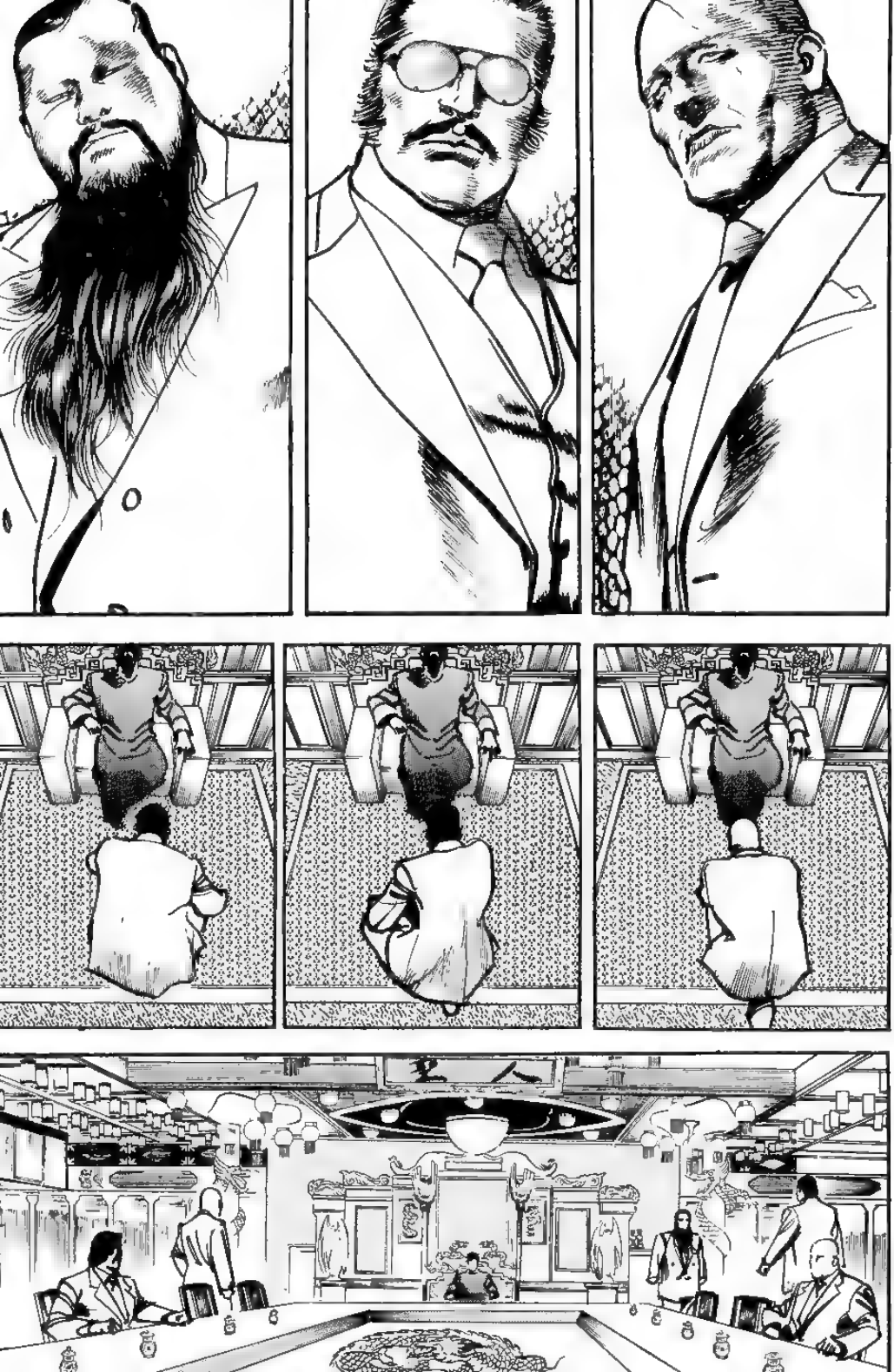
*FX SPATCH SPATCH
*FX SPATCH
*FX CLANK
SO IT SEEMS THAT THE STORIES PASSED DOWN IN THE BLACK MARKET OF ARTS ARE TRUE.
*FX HRRR
ぶるる!
AAAH!!

*FX HJH?
WE FOUND THIS SHEATH IN THE SEAWATER WE PUMPED OUT OF THE ENGINE ROOM WHEN WE WERE CLEANING IT.
IT SEEMED TOO BEAUTIFUL TO JUST--
WHAT HAP-PENED?
ARE YOU ITS PRESENT OWNER?
IF YOU TRY TO DISCARD IT AGAIN OR DESTROY IT, GREAT HARM MAY COME TO YOU.
IT CANNOT BE THROWN AWAY.
*FX SHFF
I AM.

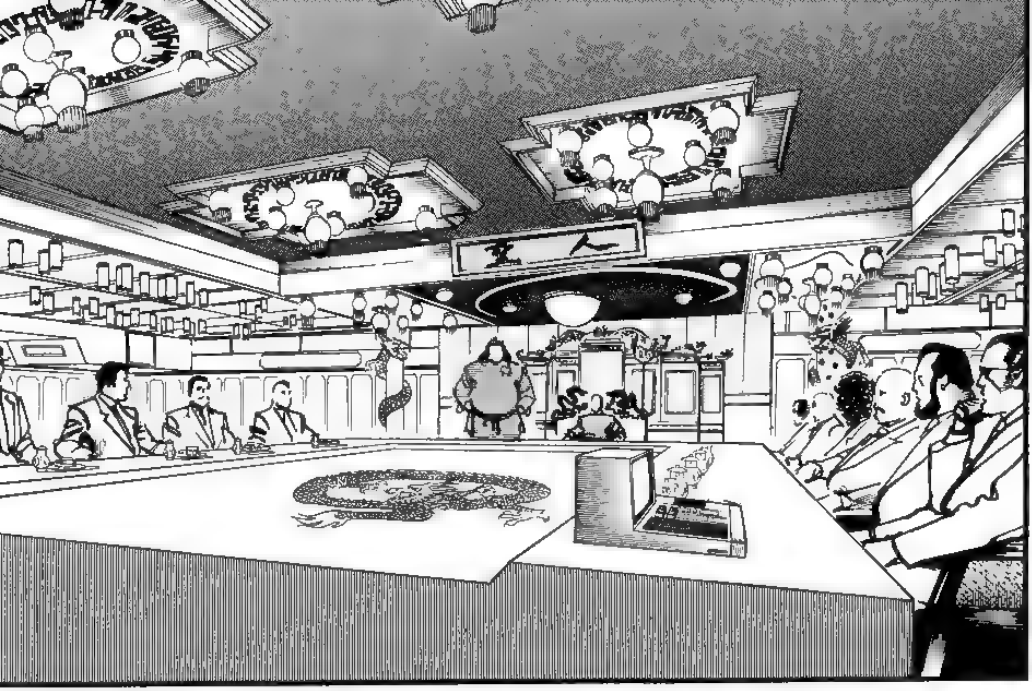
*FX AAH
BIG SIS!!
DON'T YOU OR BAI YA SHAN WORRY ABOUT ME!
*FX SMILE
*FX CLINK

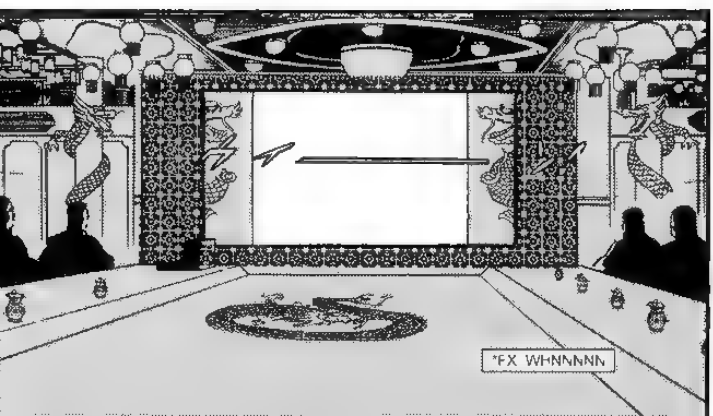
SISTER
CHAPTER 3
第8話 姉(ジエ)貴(3)

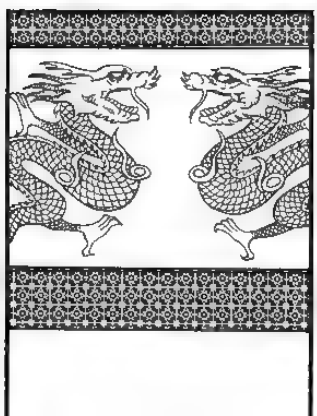
*FX FWSHH

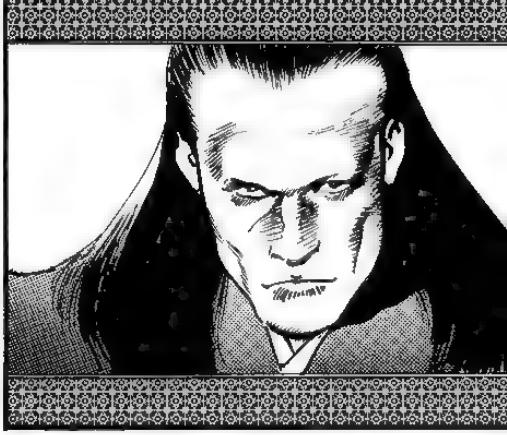


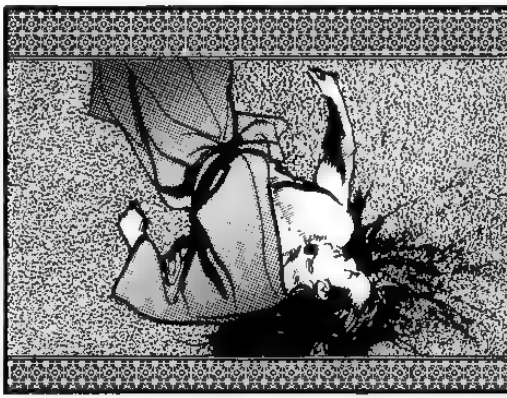
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
*FX VWISHHH




*FX WHNNNNN



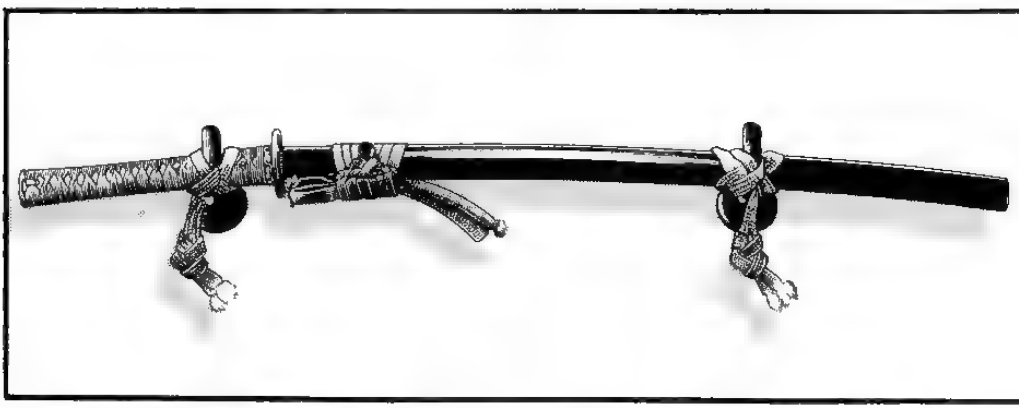


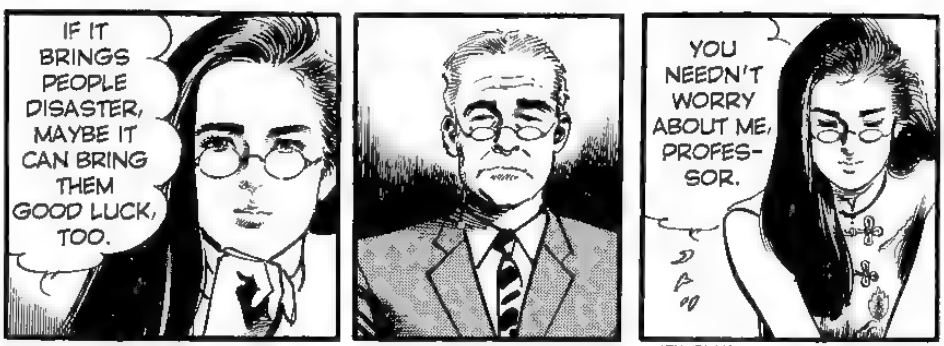


*FX CLIK

THIS IS WHY I MET KAIEDA.
THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY MR. IMAIDA, A BACKER OF OUR ORGANIZATION AND CHAIRMAN OF KANTO RAILWAY.
THE LETTER OF INTRODUCTION CARRIED BY THE ASSASSIN SHIRO KAIEDA WAS WRITTEN ON SPECIAL PAPER BEARING THE OFFICIAL 108 DRAGONS' WATERMARK.

SOMETHING BIG IS IN MOTION. SOMETHING WHOSE AIM IS TO CRUSH THE 108 DRAGONS!
HE WAS ABDUCTED FROM HIS MANSION IN IZU FOUR DAYS AGO.
HOWEVER, WE'VE DISCOVERED THAT CHAIRMAN IMAIDA HAS GONE MISSING.
IS MOST LIKELY
AND ITS EPICENTER
...IN JAPAN!!
Kyo

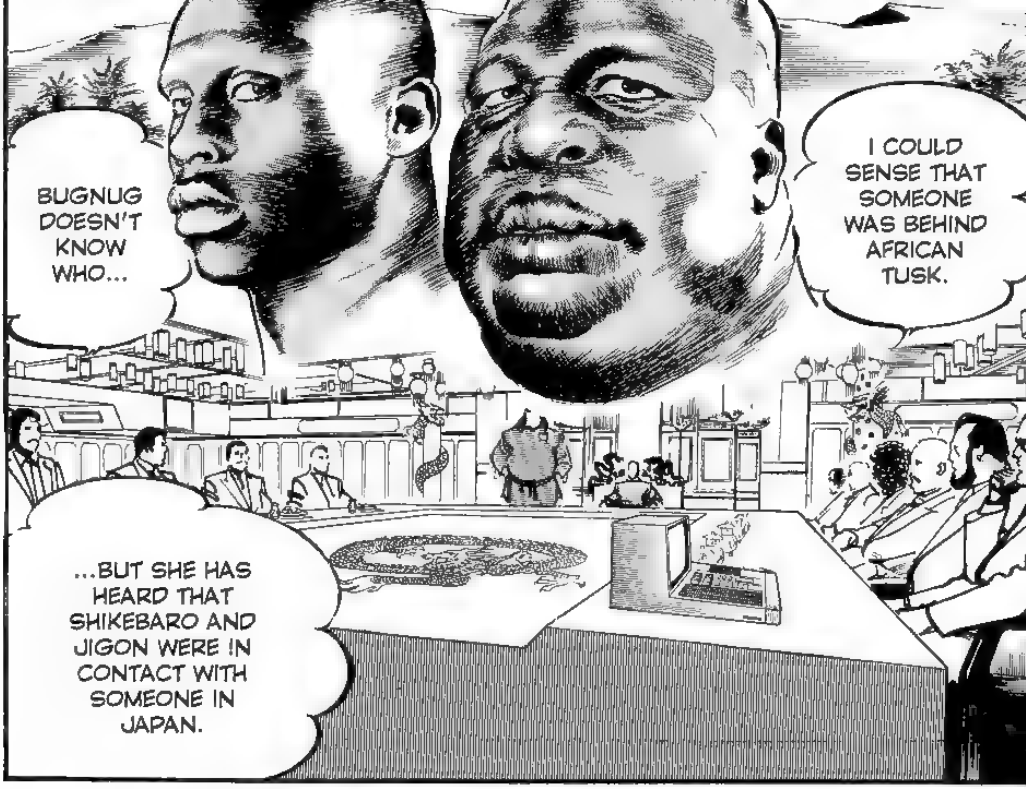


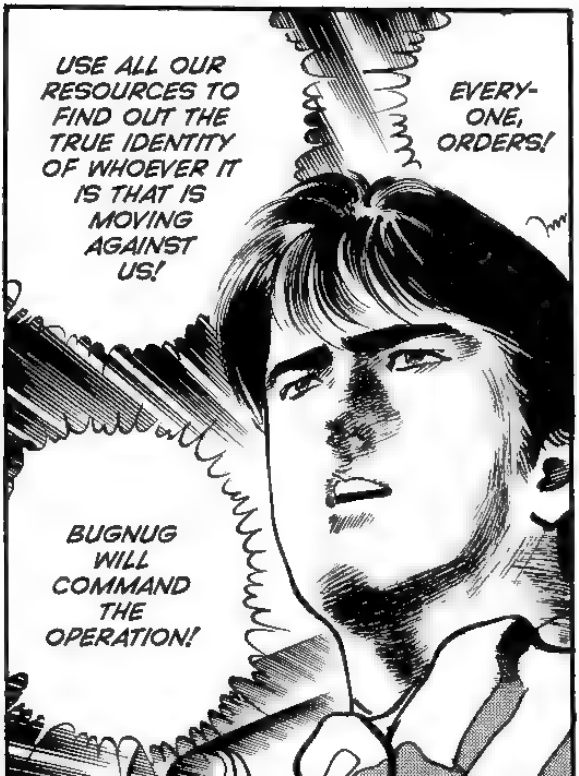

IF IT BRINGS PEOPLE DISASTER, MAYBE IT CAN BRING THEM GOOD LUCK, TOO.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ME, PROFES-SOR.
*FX CLAK

PERHAPS THE SWORD ITSELF BECOMES OFFENDED WHEN IT'S SO SHUNNED.
...I THINK IT WOULD STOP AVENGING ITSELF ON ITS POSSES-SORS.
...AND IF WE COULD TREAT IT WITH LOVING RESPECT, AS IF IT HAD A SOUL...
IF WE COULD UNDERSTAND THE CURSE AND ENMITY THAT THE SWORD CONTAINS...
...DOES NOT MEAN HOLDING IT IN YOUR BED AT NIGHT AND NURTURING IT!
LOVING A SWORD...
WOULD IT?

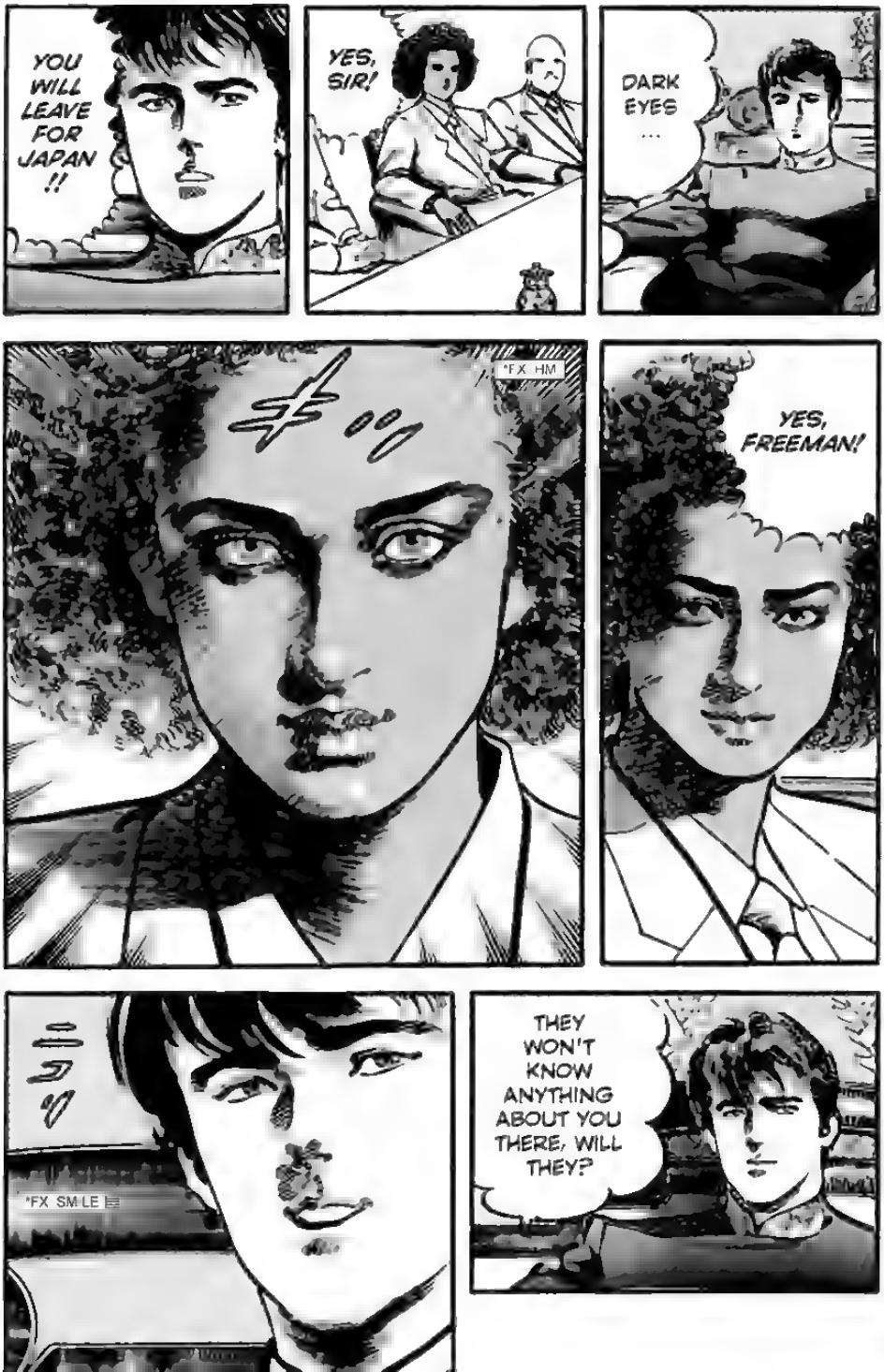
IT MEANS DRAWING IT AND USING IT! AND WIELDING IT WITH SUCH SKILL AS IF TO SUMMON THE WIND!
ONLY AN EXPERT CAN DO THIS!
THAT IS WHY MURAMASA HAS ALWAYS BEEN ANGERED.
IT HAS NOT BEEN USED PROPERLY-- AS A SWORD-- BUT HAS BEEN TREATED AS A TREASURE AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN POSSESSED BY THOSE WHO CANNOT USE IT.

I REALIZE THAT.
...?!
NO. I'M KEEPING IT.
THEN RELEASE IT, NOW.


BUGNUG DOESN'T KNOW WHO...
I COULD SENSE THAT SOMEONE WAS BEHIND AFRICAN TUSK.
...BUT SHE HAS HEARD THAT SHIKEBARO AND JIGON WERE IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE IN JAPAN.


USE ALL OUR RESOURCES TO FIND OUT THE TRUE IDENTITY OF WHOEVER IT IS THAT IS MOVING AGAINST US!
EVERY-ONE, ORDERS!
BUGNUG WILL COMMAND THE OPERATION!

THEIR MOTIVES ARE STILL NOT CLEAR.
WHY DID AFRICAN TUSK TRY TO CHALLENGE US?
AND I CAN'T HELP FEELING THAT THIS RECENT INCIDENT WITH MURAMASA IS ALSO SOMEHOW CONNECTED.


YOU WILL LEAVE FOR JAPAN !!
YES, SIR!
DARK EYES ...
*FX HM
YES, FREEMAN!
*FX SMILE
THEY WON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU THERE, WILL THEY?

*FX: VRRRMMM

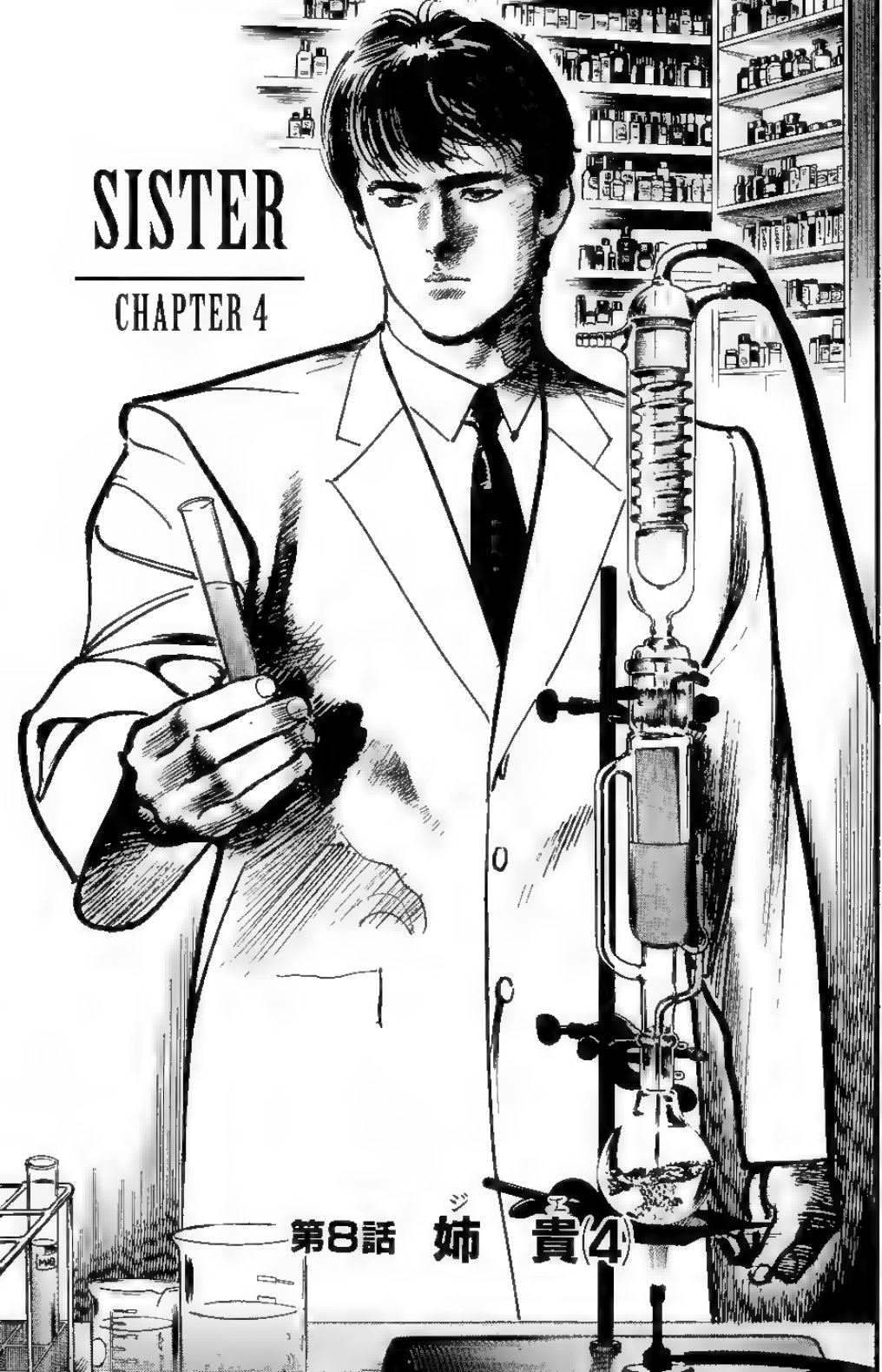
WE'RE COMING UP ON THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY HERE. WE AREN'T--
YES?
HEY, SIS!
I HEARD THERE'S A MASTER SWORDSMAN THERE.
H-HOW COME?!
WE ARE! WE'RE GOING TO THE WALLED CITY!
I WILL SLICE THE AIR AS IF TO SUMMON THE WIND AND SO SHOW MY LOVING RESPECT FOR MURAMASA.
I'M GOING TO LEARN TO USE THE SWORD AND BECOME A MASTER.
WHA--?!
ポカーン
I KNOW THAT NOW.
AND THEN MURAMASA WILL BRING US NO MORE ILL FORTUNE, NO MORE VIOLENCE, NO MORE BLOOD.

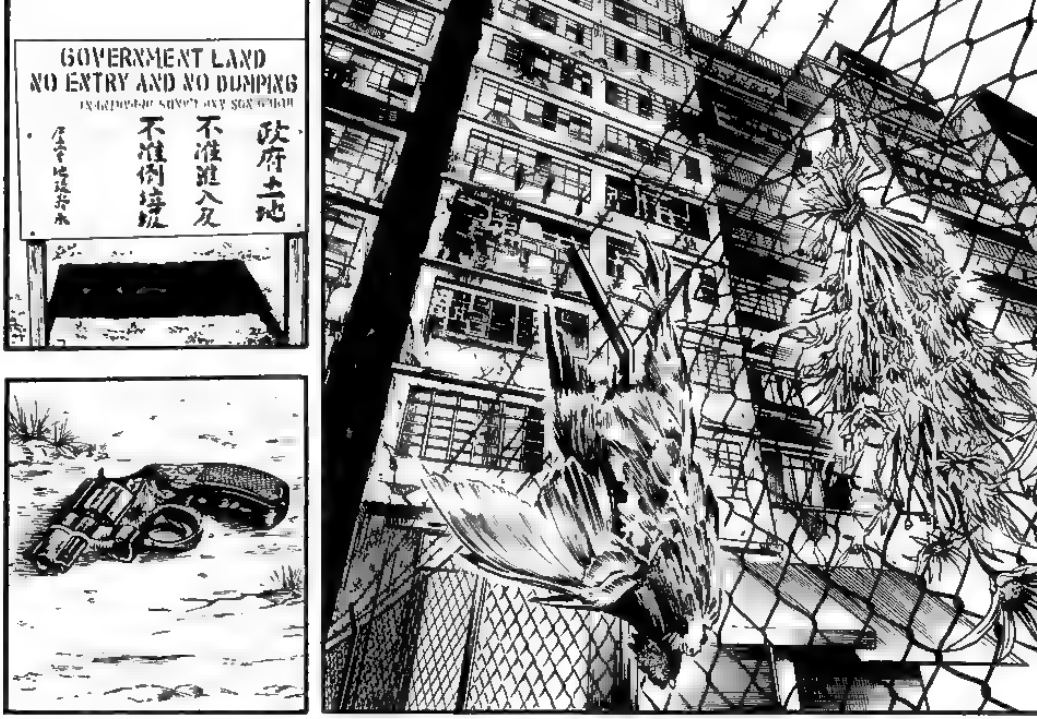
*FX HUH ?

THE ONLY THING I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT HE'S IN THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY!!
I'M NOT SURE. HIS JAPANESE NAME WAS *GOKEN ISHIDA*. PROFESSOR MIKAGE SAID HE MUST BE ABOUT SEVENTY YEARS OLD BY NOW.
WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE? AND WHAT'S THIS MASTER SWORDSMAN'S NAME?
*FX VRR RR RR RR!
IT'S LIKE A HELL ON EARTH! ABANDONED BY EVERYBODY!
WE CAN'T!! THE WALLED CITY'S THE ONE PLACE THAT'S OFF LIMITS! EVEN THE 108 DRAGONS ISN'T ALLOWED TO SET FOOT IN THE PLACE!

*FX VRRRMMM
WE CAN FIND YA SOME OTHER TEACHER!
LET'S TURN BACK, SIS! YOU DON'T WANNA GO TO THAT PLACE! IT'S LIKE THE LAND OF THE LIVING DEAD!
WE'RE GOING, BAI YA SHAN!!
Y-YES, SISTER ...
*FX ("sound" of a determined stare)
KEEP GOING!!
*FX VRRRMMM

*FX VWOOOSH


SISTER
CHAPTER 4
第8話　姉（ジ）　貴（エ）(4)


GOVERNMENT LAND
NO ENTRY AND NO DUMPING
政府土地
不准進入及
不准傾填

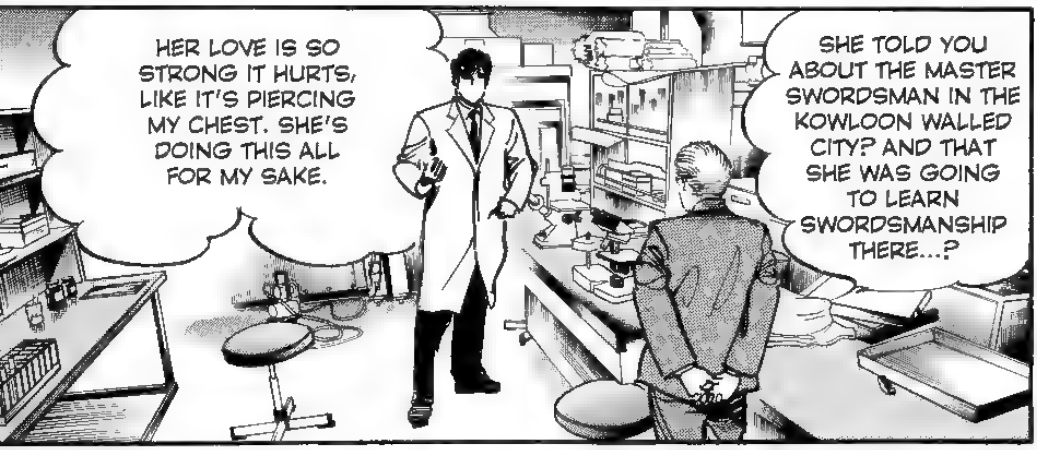
*FX ("sound" of looking around anxiously)
WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, THEY ALWAYS SAID THEY'D DUMP ME IN THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY IF I DID SOMETHING BAD!
THIS PLACE IS CREEPY!
*FX. PTT PTT PTT

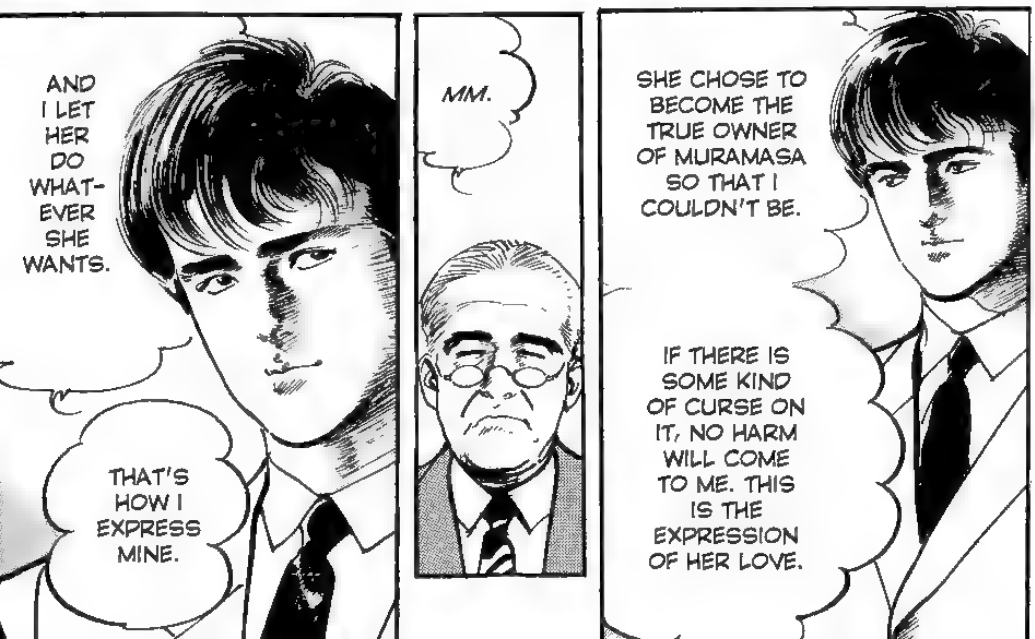
BUT NO ONE'LL ADMIT THAT *ANYBODY* LIVES HERE!
*FX. VWOOO
IT'S AN EXTRATERRITORIAL SLUM RIGHT AT THE BASE OF THE KOWLOON PENINSULA.
THERE ARE FORTY THOUSAND PEOPLE LIVING THERE, BUT IT DOESN'T BELONG TO ENGLAND, CHINA, HONG KONG, OR ANYONE!

MURAMASA HERE WILL SHOW US THE WAY!
*FX SMILE
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO LOOK FOR SENSEI GOKEN ISHIDA!
YEAH, BUT HOW?
WHEN HE SEES THIS SWORD HE'LL HAVE TO BE MOVED. WE'LL SEE THE GLIMMER IN HIS EYES!
HE'S JAPANESE AND A MASTER SWORDSMAN. NATURALLY, HE MUST KNOW ABOUT MURAMASA.
...?
OH, REALLY ...?

*FX KA-SMASH
AH! GOT AN IDEA!
WHAT ABOUT THE BOAT, SIS? IF WE JUST LEAVE IT HERE, SOMEBODY'LL WRECK IT!
*FX KRAK KRACKK
IT'S ALL MUDDY DOWN THERE. IF ANYBODY TRIES TO GET TO THE BOAT, THEY'LL GET ALL STUCK!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
OOPS!
WHAT ABOUT US?

*FX FWSHH


HER LOVE IS SO STRONG IT HURTS, LIKE IT'S PIERCING MY CHEST. SHE'S DOING THIS ALL FOR MY SAKE.
SHE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE MASTER SWORDSMAN IN THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY? AND THAT SHE WAS GOING TO LEARN SWORDSMANSHIP THERE...?


AND I LET HER DO WHAT-EVER SHE WANTS.
THAT'S HOW I EXPRESS MINE.
MM.
SHE CHOSE TO BECOME THE TRUE OWNER OF MURAMASA SO THAT I COULDN'T BE.
IF THERE IS SOME KIND OF CURSE ON IT, NO HARM WILL COME TO ME. THIS IS THE EXPRESSION OF HER LOVE.

*FX GLP
THIS IS A FORMULA NEWLY DEVELOPED BY OUR LABORATORY TO PROTECT THE STOMACH WALL.
タラリ
*FX DRIP

*FX AAH!
*FX GLP
AND THIS IS HYDRO-GEN CYANIDE.

*FX HRRR

IT RUNS OUT IN TWENTY MIN-UTES.
IT BLOCKS THE ABSORP-TION OF ALL POISONS.
I'M ALL RIGHT. THE FORMULA CREATED A FILM THAT COATED MY THROAT, ESOPHAGUS, AND STOMACH, ACTING AS A STRONG BARRIER.

*FX SPASH SPASH
*FX HOARRK
*FX HOARRK
BEFORE THEN...
-:PHEW:-
...
...THERE'S NO KNOWN POISON THAT CAN KILL YOU.
IF YOU'VE DRUNK THIS ANTIDOTE, THEN VOMIT AND GARGLE...
YOURS IS TRULY A WORLD BEYOND MY IMAGINING.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF ATTACK OUR ENEMIES WILL COME AT US WITH NEXT, SO WE HAVE TO PREPARE COUNTER-MEASURES FOR EVERY POSSIBLE EVENTUALITY.
I APOL-OGIZE FOR FRIGHT-ENING YOU.
*FX SMILE
I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHO WE REALLY ARE.
I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW, PROFES-SOR.

SFX VWOOOO

*FX WHJP
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A HOTEL AROUND HERE CALLED THE BLUE KOWLOON GATE. I WAS TOLD THAT IF WE ASK AT THE FRONT DESK, THEY MAY KNOW SOMETHING.
AAAH!!
*FX FWASH
AGGH!

*FX FWUP
*FX SHRR
HONG KONG
<IS THERE A DOCTOR AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE?>
BIG SIS!!
*FX THD

SIS! THIS IS A DENTIST'S!
TH-THIS CHILD NEEDS HELP!!
OF COURSE. LAY HIM OVER THERE.

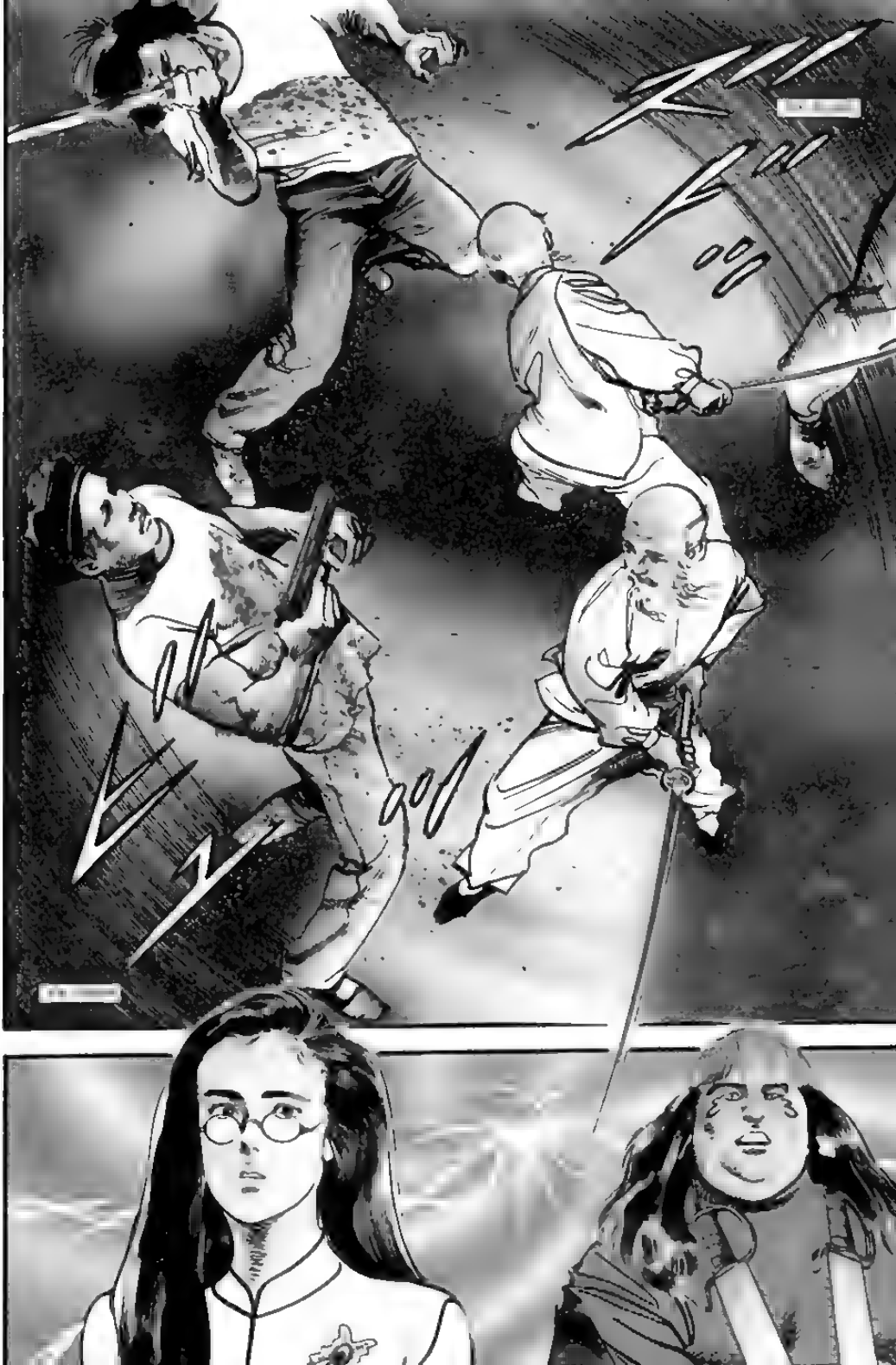
HIS HEART WAS UNINJURED. HE'LL BE FINE.
*FX THUD WHJD

<YER A NICE ONE... WE'LL GET A GOOD PRICE FOR YOU.>

SISTER
CHAPTER 5
第8話 姉貴(シエ)5

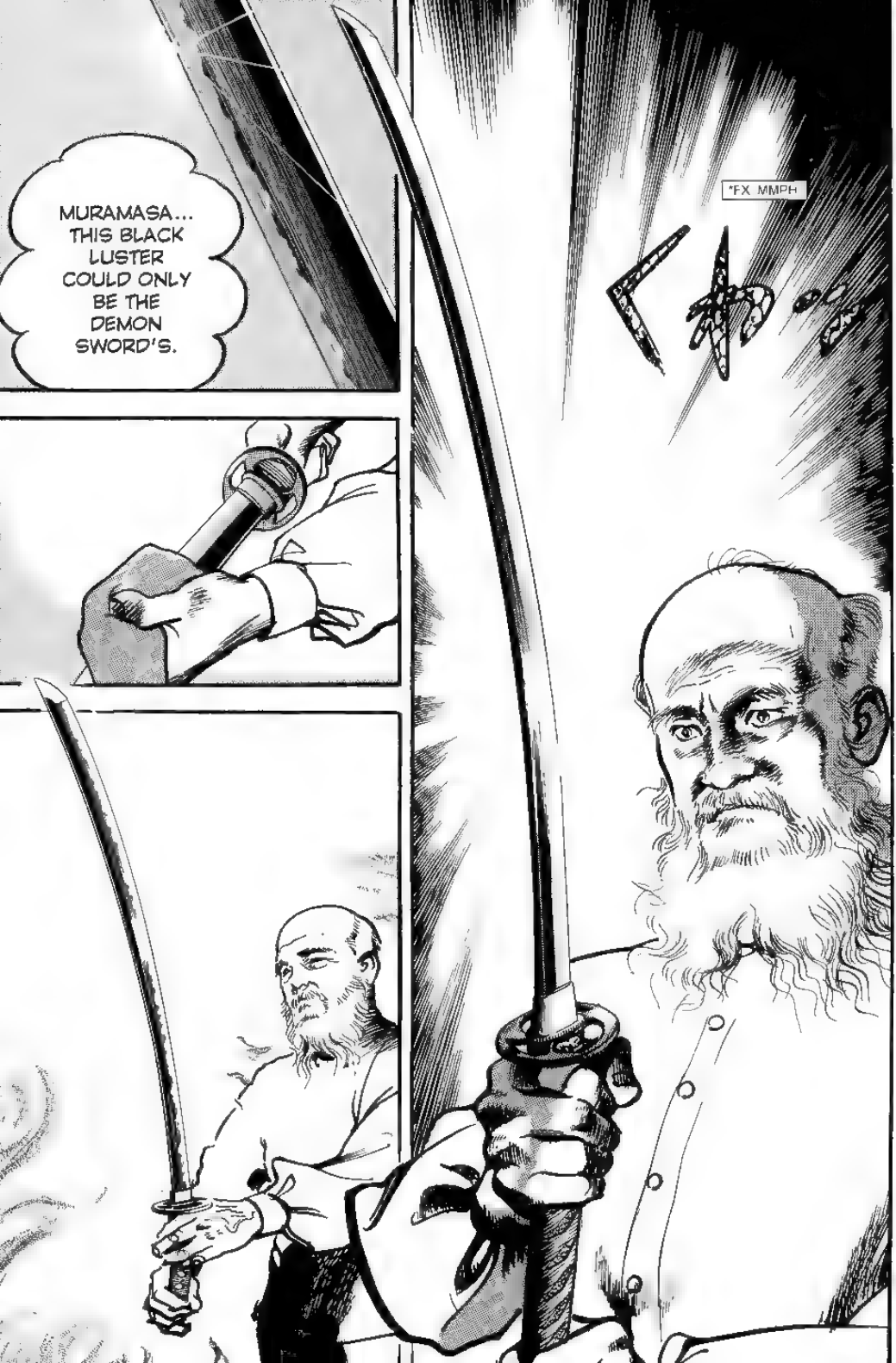
X GRR
<DON'T MOVE! YOU WANNA DIE?!>
<COME WITH US, WOMAN!! WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH YOU BEFORE WE SELL YOU!>

*FX SLASH
*FX YEEARGH!
*FX BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA



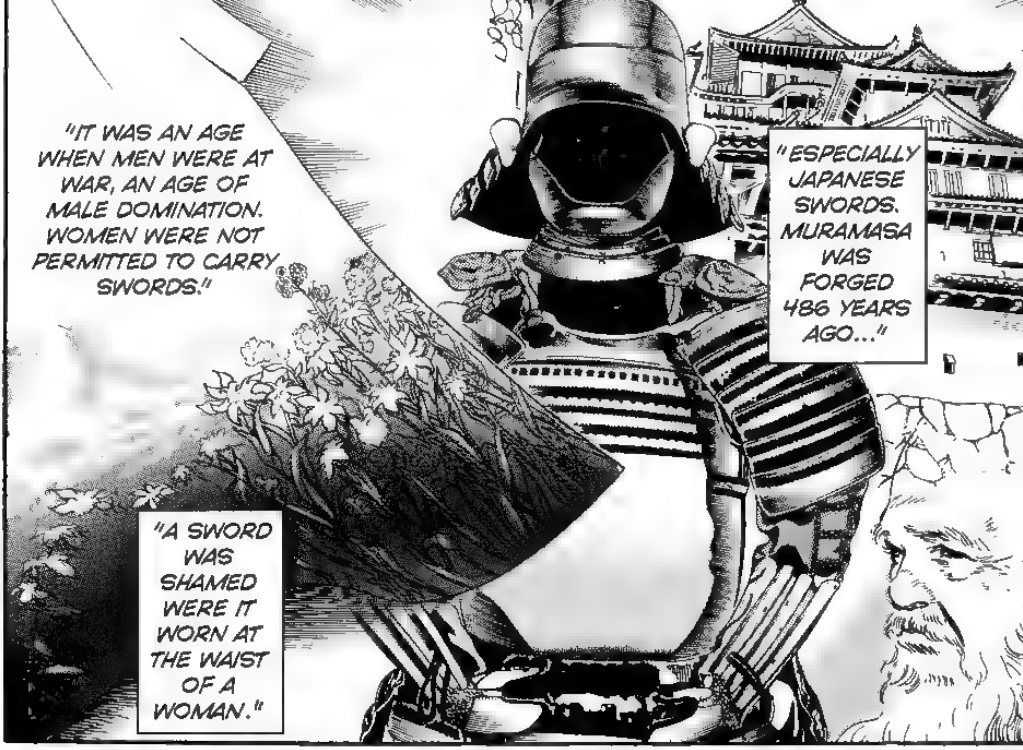
'FX AHH'
THERE!! I'VE STOPPED THE BLEEDING! HE'LL LIVE!

YOU'RE GOKEN ISHIDA, AREN'T YOU?!
THEY GAVE ME NO CHOICE.
BUT PERHAPS IT ALL EVENS OUT IN THAT BY TAKING THREE LIVES, I SAVED THREE LIVES.
IF IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO ONLY INJURE THEM.
MMM...
*FX. SHGG

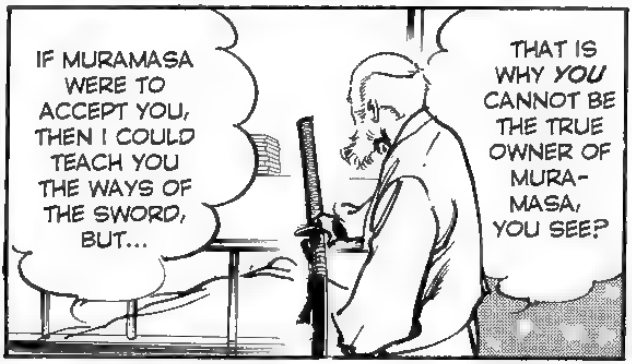

MURAMASA... THIS BLACK LUSTER COULD ONLY BE THE DEMON SWORD'S.
*FX MMPH

I'M JAPANESE. BEFORE MY MARRIAGE, MY NAME WAS EMU HINO.
I AM THE WIFE OF LONG TAI YANG OF THE 108 DRAGONS. MY NAME IS HU QING LAN.
...SO THAT I CAN BECOME MURA-MASA'S TRUE OWNER!
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TEACH ME THE WAYS OF THE SWORD...
I DON'T WANT *ANYONE* TO HAVE TO POSSESS IT EVER AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT MY HUSBAND TO HAVE TO POSSESS IT.
...SO THAT NO ONE ELSE EVER COMES TO HARM BECAUSE OF IT.
IF THE SWORD IS CURSED, I WANT TO BE ITS TRUE POSSESSOR AND TRY TO QUELL IT...
WHY?

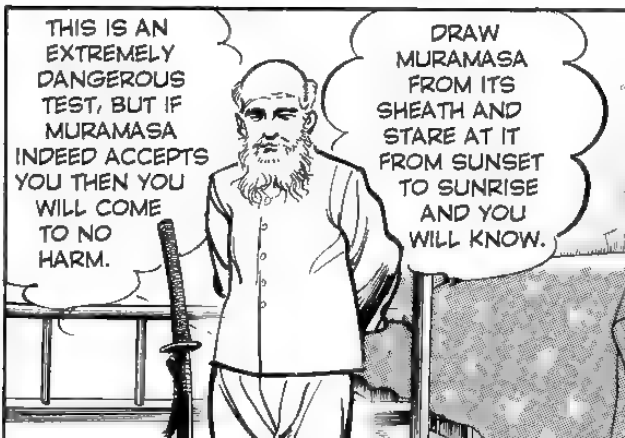
HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO POSSESS THE SWORD, I MUST FIRST MASTER IT, THEN USE IT.
YES. MY MENTOR, PROFESSOR MASANOBU MIKAGE, EXPLAINED IT TO ME.
DID SOMEONE TELL YOU ALL THIS?
THIS IS INDEED TRUE, BUT YOU ARE FORGETTING SOMETHING MORE ELEMENTARY.
SWORDS HATE WOMEN.
*FX CLICK
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO KILL OTHERS, ONLY SLICE THE AIR AND MAKE THE WIND DANCE AROUND IT.


"IT WAS AN AGE WHEN MEN WERE AT WAR, AN AGE OF MALE DOMINATION. WOMEN WERE NOT PERMITTED TO CARRY SWORDS."
"ESPECIALLY JAPANESE SWORDS. MURAMASA WAS FORGED 486 YEARS AGO..."
"A SWORD WAS SHAMED WERE IT WORN AT THE WAIST OF A WOMAN."

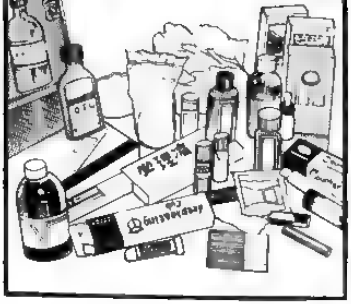
HOW WOULD I KNOW IF MURAMASA ACCEPTED ME?


IF MURAMASA WERE TO ACCEPT YOU, THEN I COULD TEACH YOU THE WAYS OF THE SWORD, BUT...
THAT IS WHY *YOU* CANNOT BE THE TRUE OWNER OF MURA-MASA, YOU SEE?

HOWEVER, IF IT DOES NOT, THEN YOU WILL BE POSSESSED BY MURAMASA'S DEMONIC THIRST TO KILL.


THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TEST, BUT IF MURAMASA INDEED ACCEPTS YOU THEN YOU WILL COME TO NO HARM.
DRAW MURAMASA FROM ITS SHEATH AND STARE AT IT FROM SUNSET TO SUNRISE AND YOU WILL KNOW.

NO.
I WANT TO CALM THE SPIRIT THAT'S IN THIS SWORD.
I TELL YOU FOR YOUR OWN SAKE-- GIVE UP.
WE'LL THROW MURAMASA DOWN A WELL NEARBY.
THE WELL IS DRIED UP. NO MATTER HOW MUCH MURAMASA WANTS TO GET OUT, IT WILL NOT.
MMPH.
PERHAPS YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN POSSESSED BY MURAMASA!
*FX HM

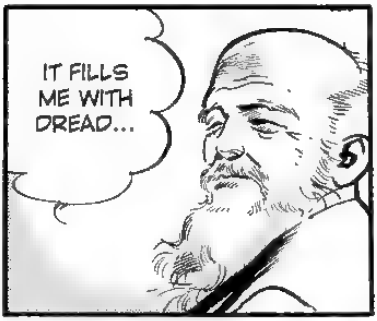


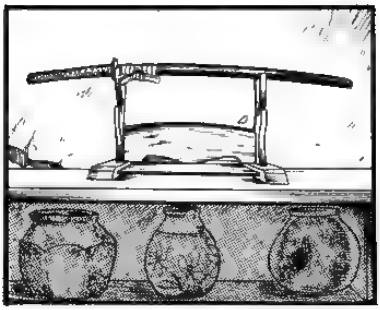
HE'S A DENTIST-- HE'S GOTTA HAVE SOME SLEEPING PILLS AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE.

THIS STUFF'S PRETTY OLD, BUT MAYBE IT STILL WORKS...

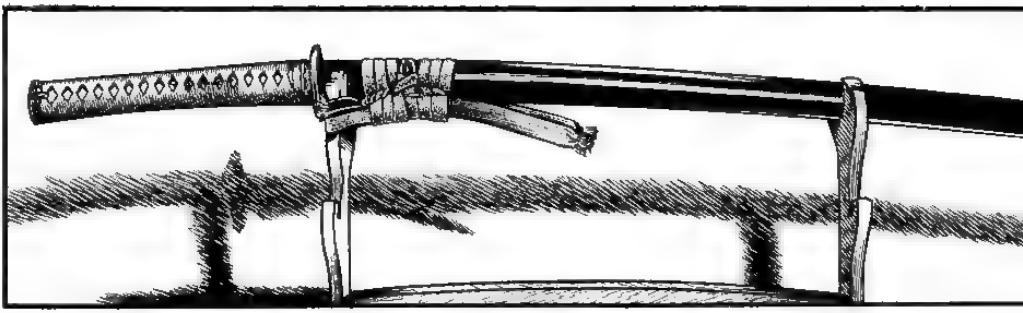
CAL-MOTIN ...

*FX SHSSS
WELL, IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'S MY BEST RECIPE. PLEASE EAT.


IT FILLS ME WITH DREAD...



AT SUNRISE TOMORROW, I'LL THROW MURAMASA DOWN THE WELL.
HAHAHAHAHAHA! AFTER ALL THAT TALK, SHE GIVES UP SO EASILY! WELL, IT'S FOR THE BEST!
EVEN I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH IT NOW.



I'D NEVER LET BIG SISTER DO ALL THAT!
I'LL GET BIG SIS IF MOM SELF!

PLEASE DON'T CURSE MY SISTER CURSE ME INSTEAD OKAY?

*FX WHACK
AAH!!
AAH!!
*FX CHEEP CHEEP

BAI YA SHAN!!

SISTER

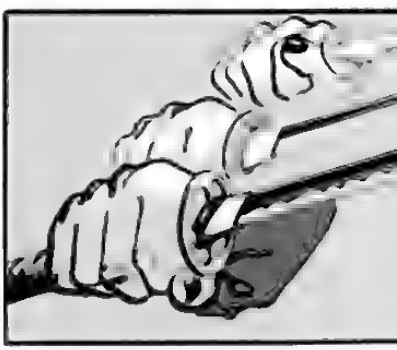
CHAPTER 6

第8話　姉（ジエ）貴(6)

BAI YA SHAN!!

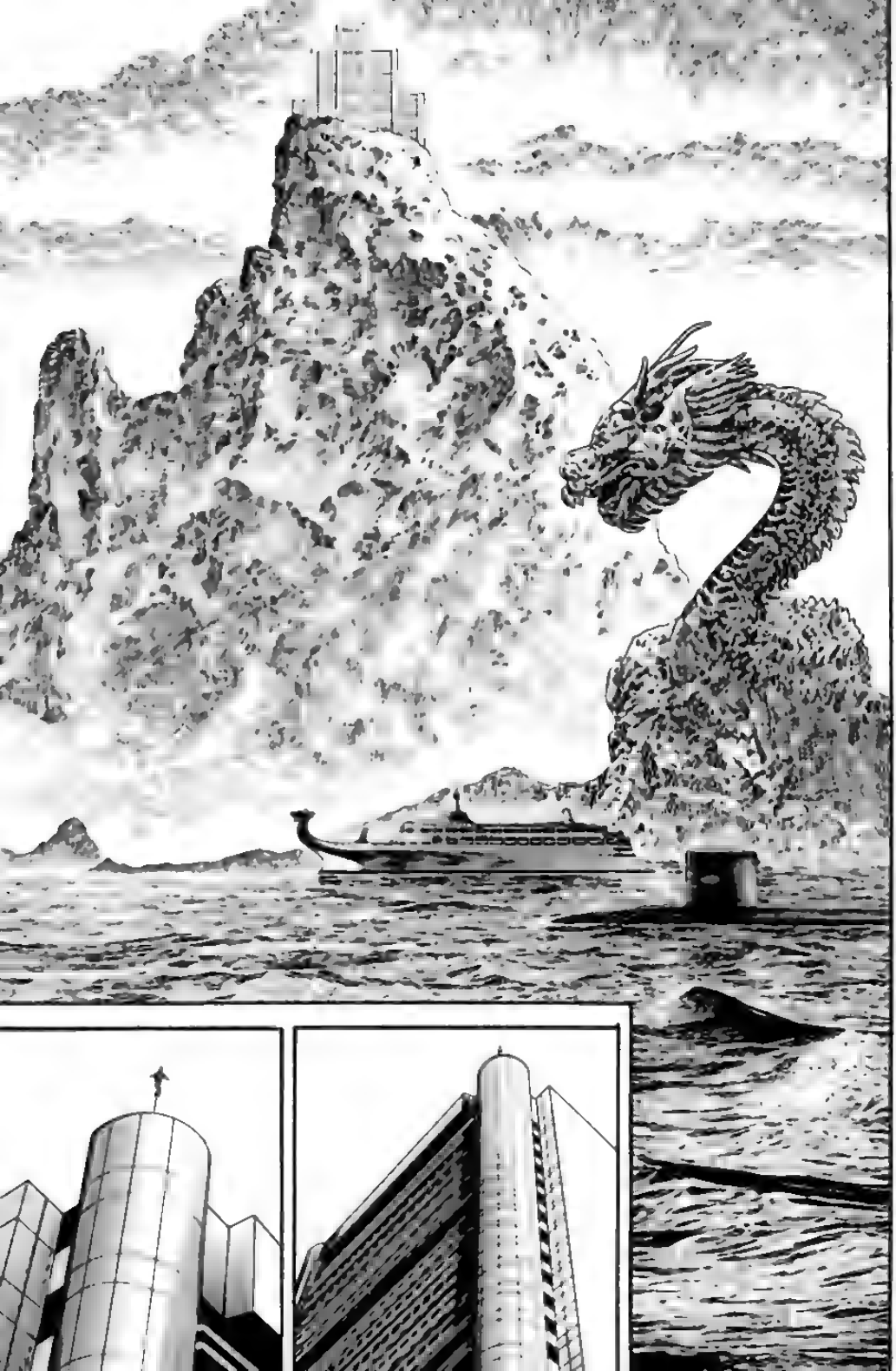
PLEASE GIVE MURAMASA BACK TO ME

IT'S ME. BAI YA SHAN! YOUR SISTER!

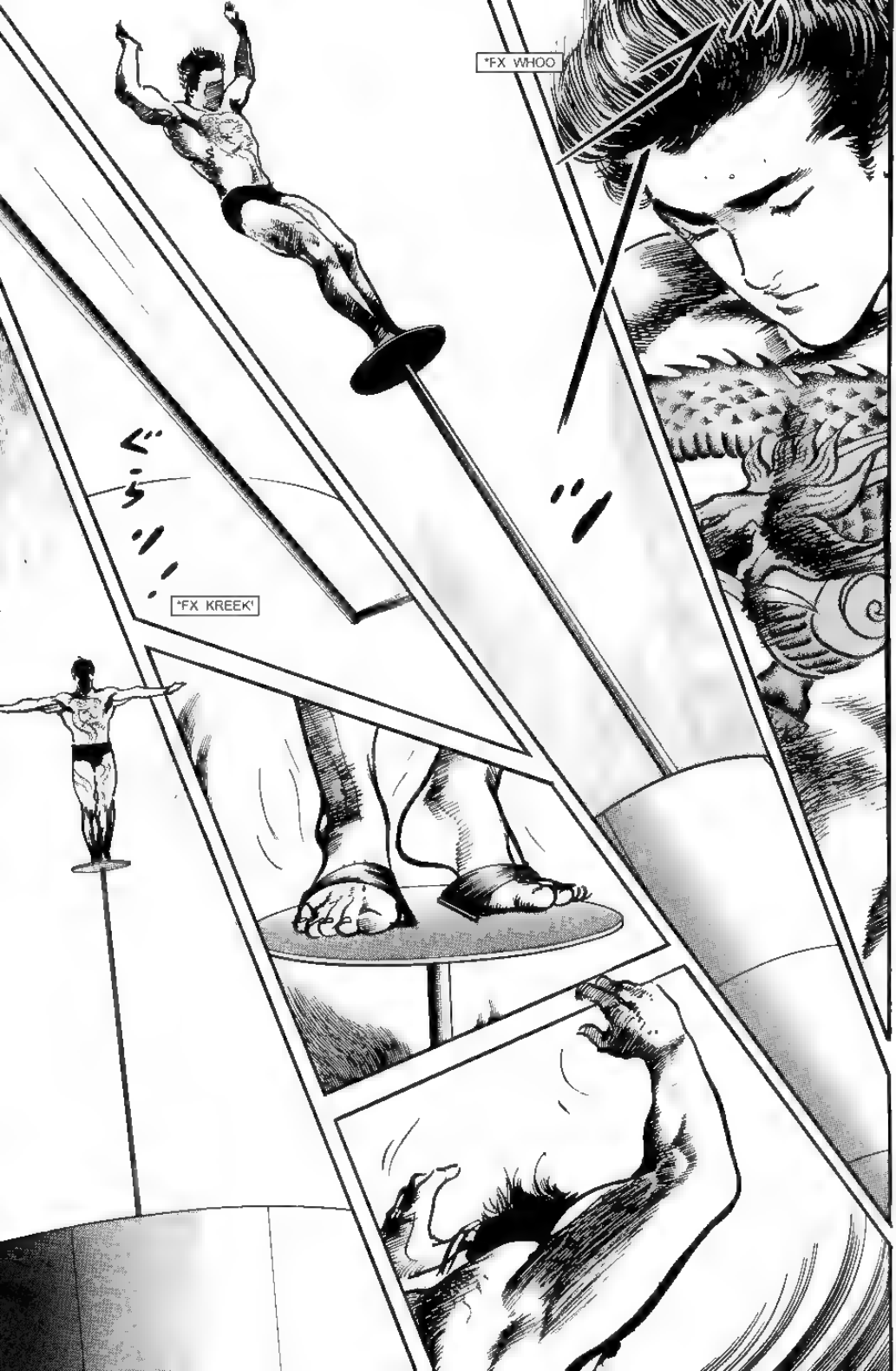


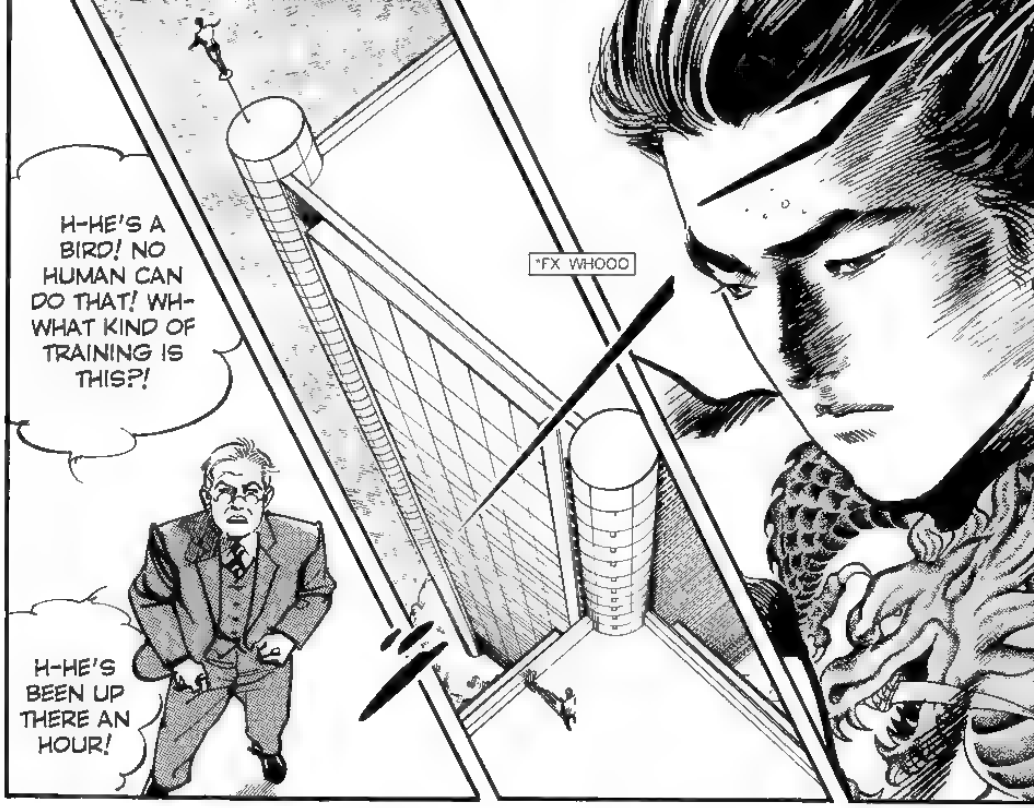
HMM

WHUMP

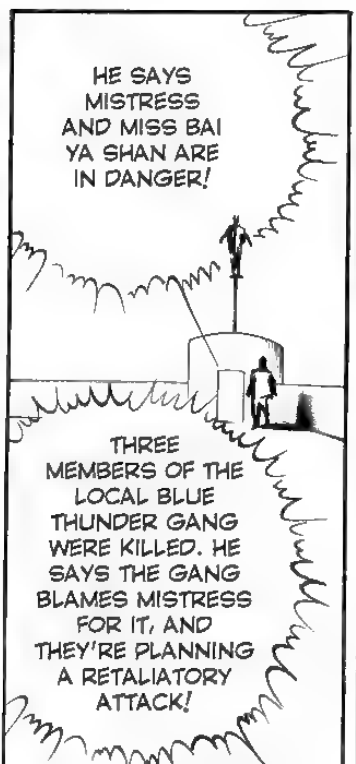


*FX WHOOOOSH

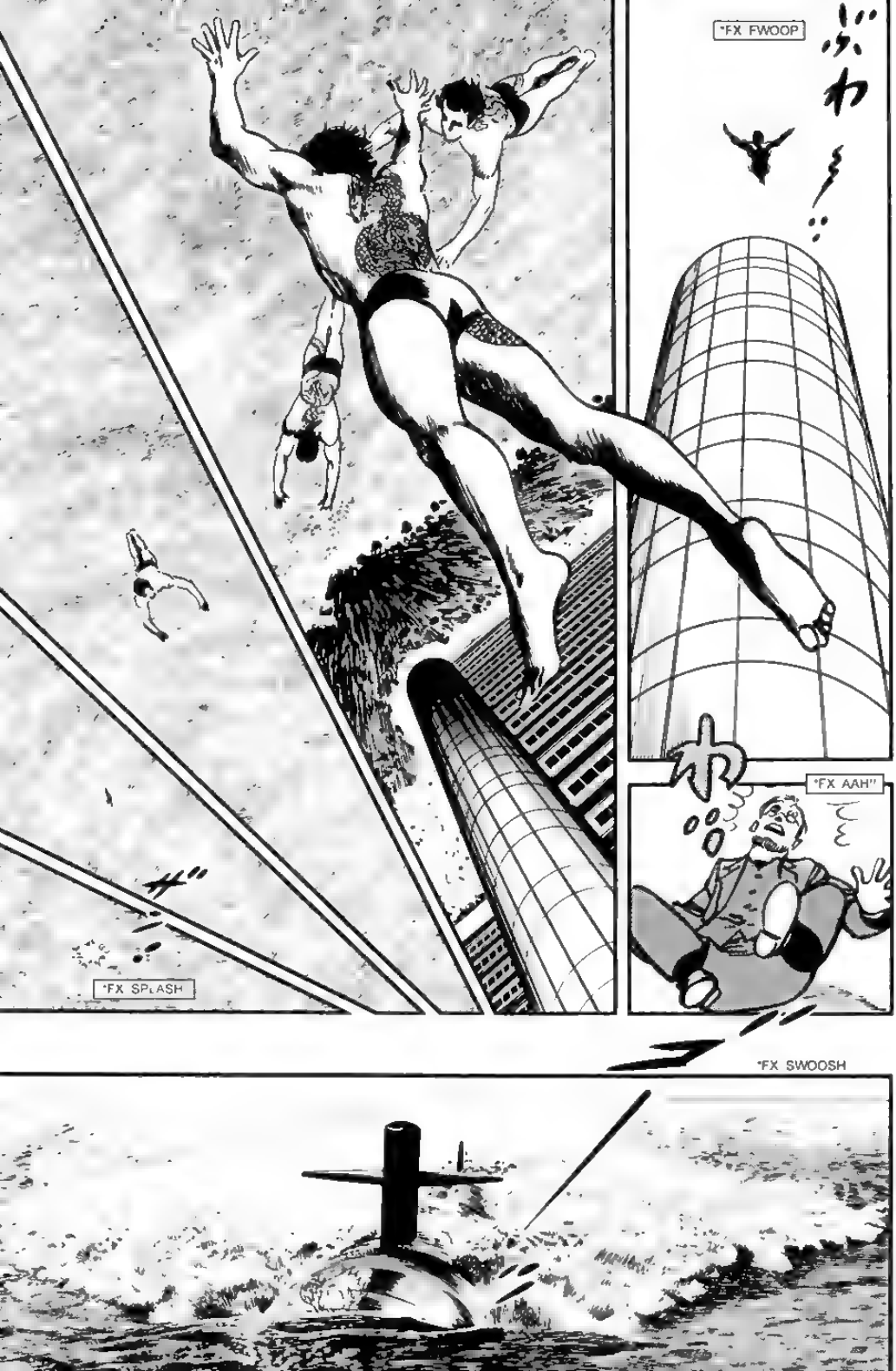

*FX WHOO
FX KREEK

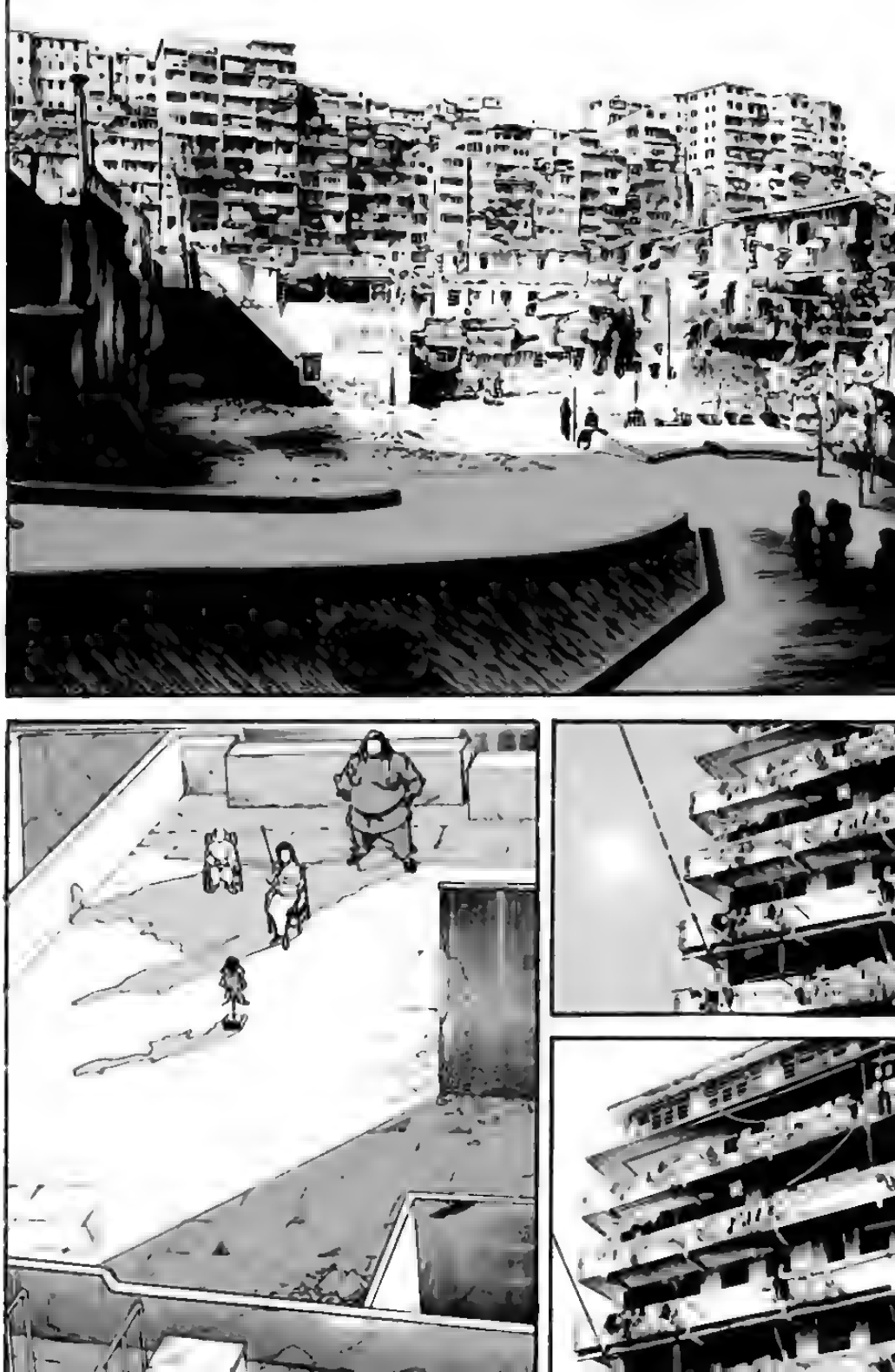

H-HE'S A BIRD! NO HUMAN CAN DO THAT! WH-WHAT KIND OF TRAINING IS THIS?!
H-HE'S BEEN UP THERE AN HOUR!
*FX WHOOO

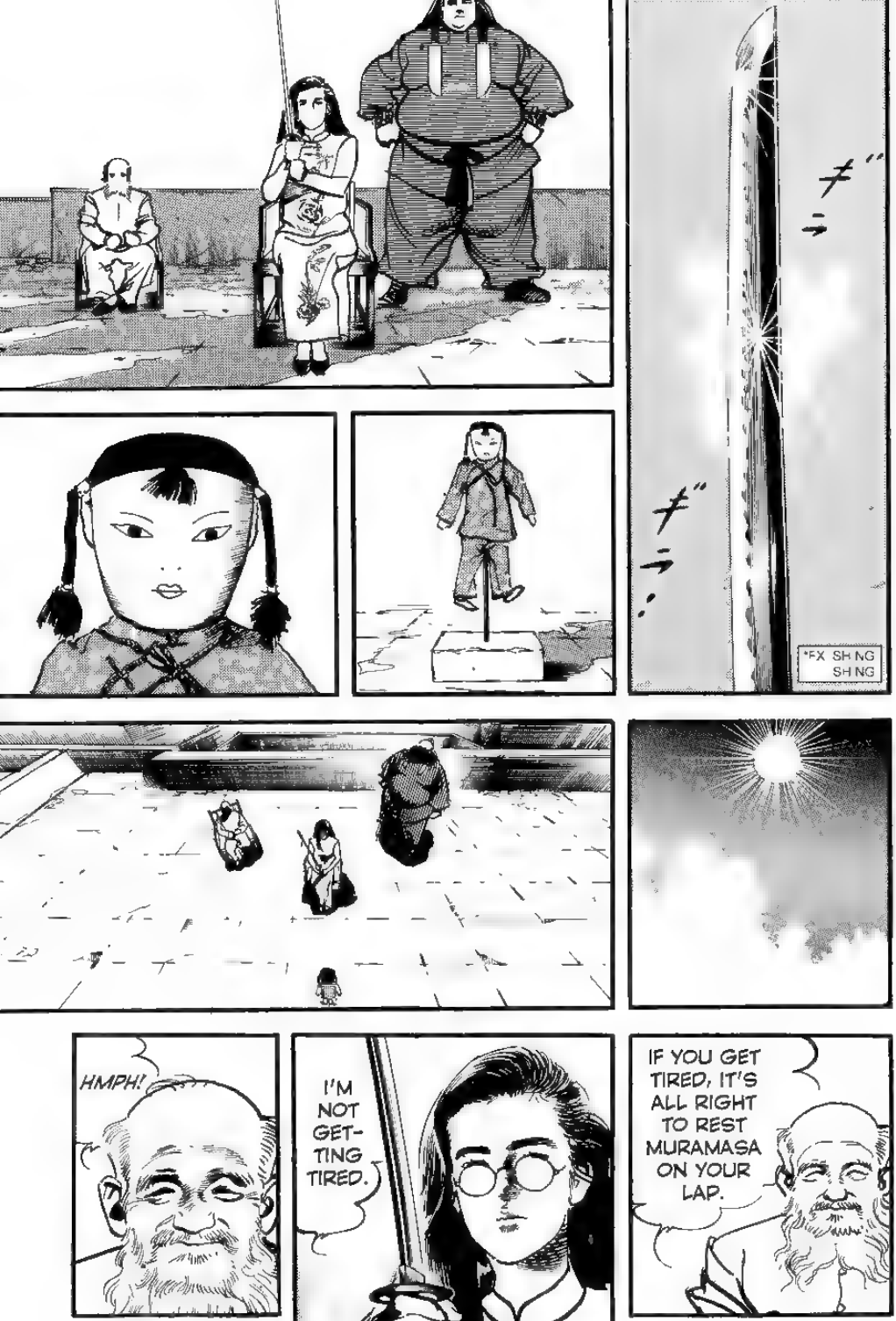
HAVE THE DRAGON SUB ON STANDBY!

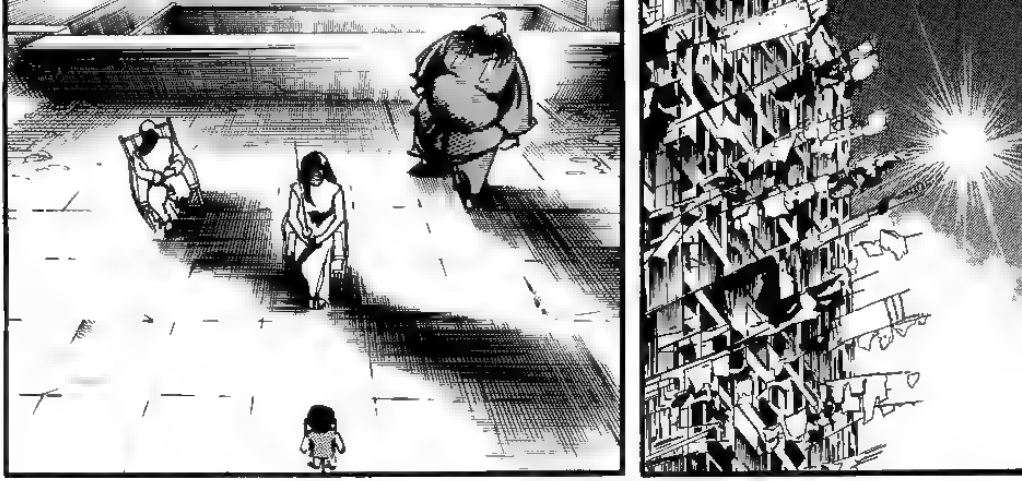

HE SAYS MISTRESS AND MISS BAI YA SHAN ARE IN DANGER!
THREE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL BLUE THUNDER GANG WERE KILLED. HE SAYS THE GANG BLAMES MISTRESS FOR IT, AND THEY'RE PLANNING A RETALIATORY ATTACK!

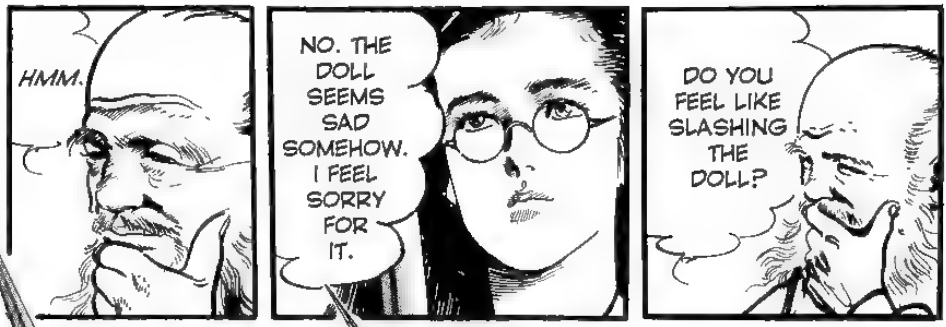
WE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM OUR CONTACT IN THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY!


*FX FWOOP
*FX AAH!!
*FX SPLASH
*FX SWOOSH

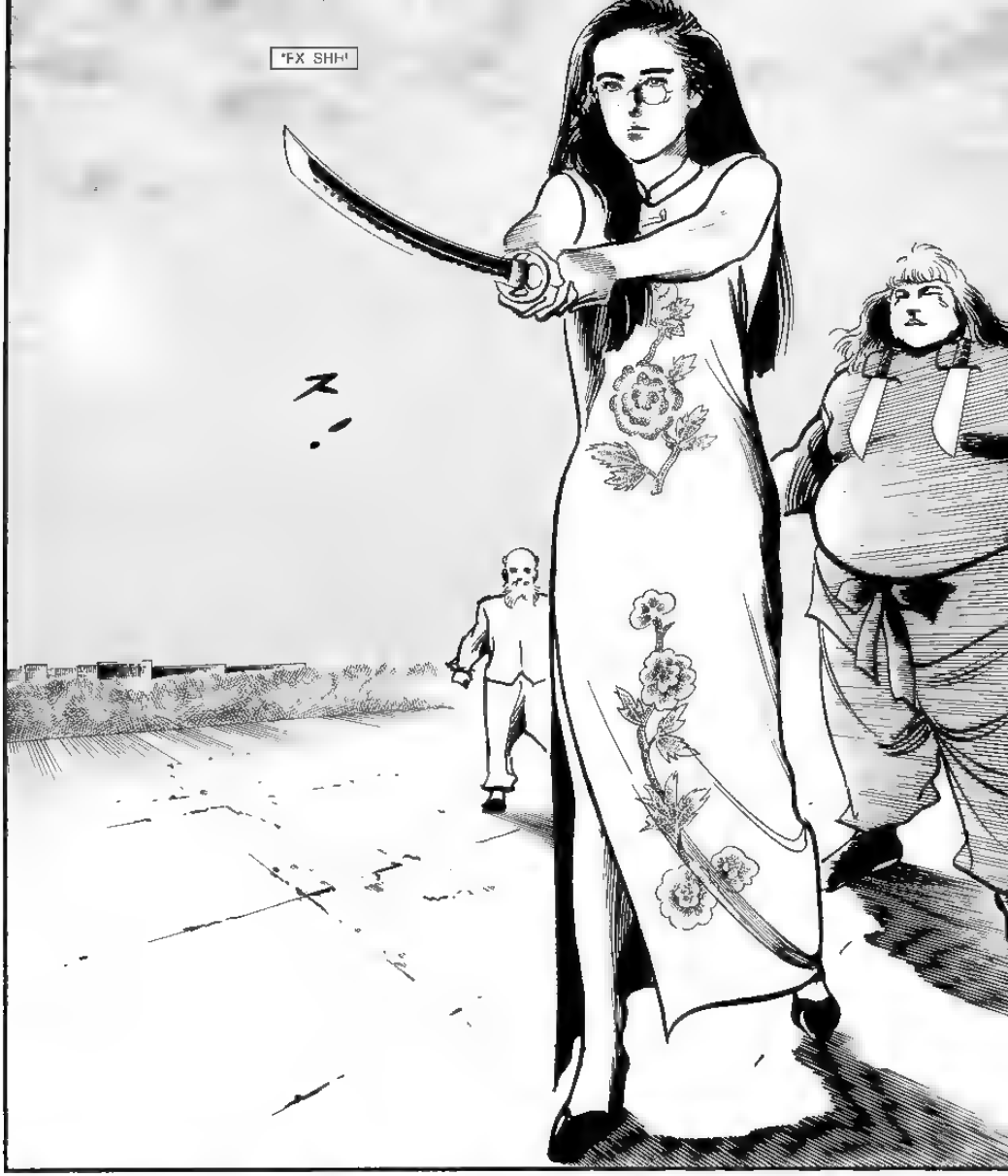
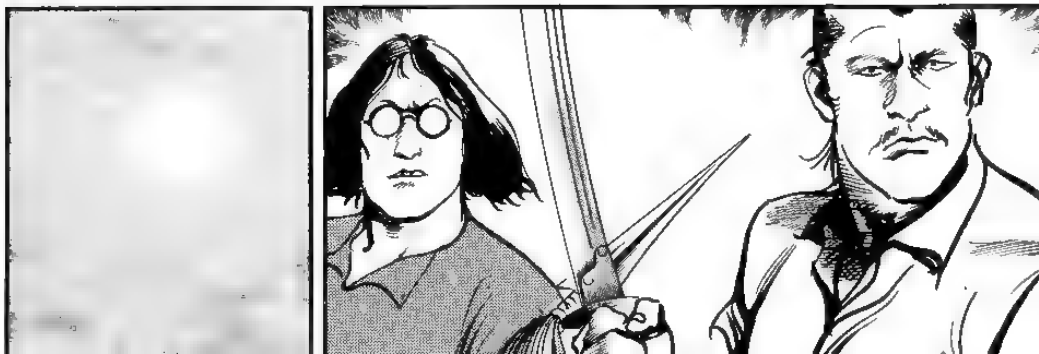



*FX SH NG
SH NG
HMPH!
I'M NOT GET-TING TIRED.
IF YOU GET TIRED, IT'S ALL RIGHT TO REST MURAMASA ON YOUR LAP.



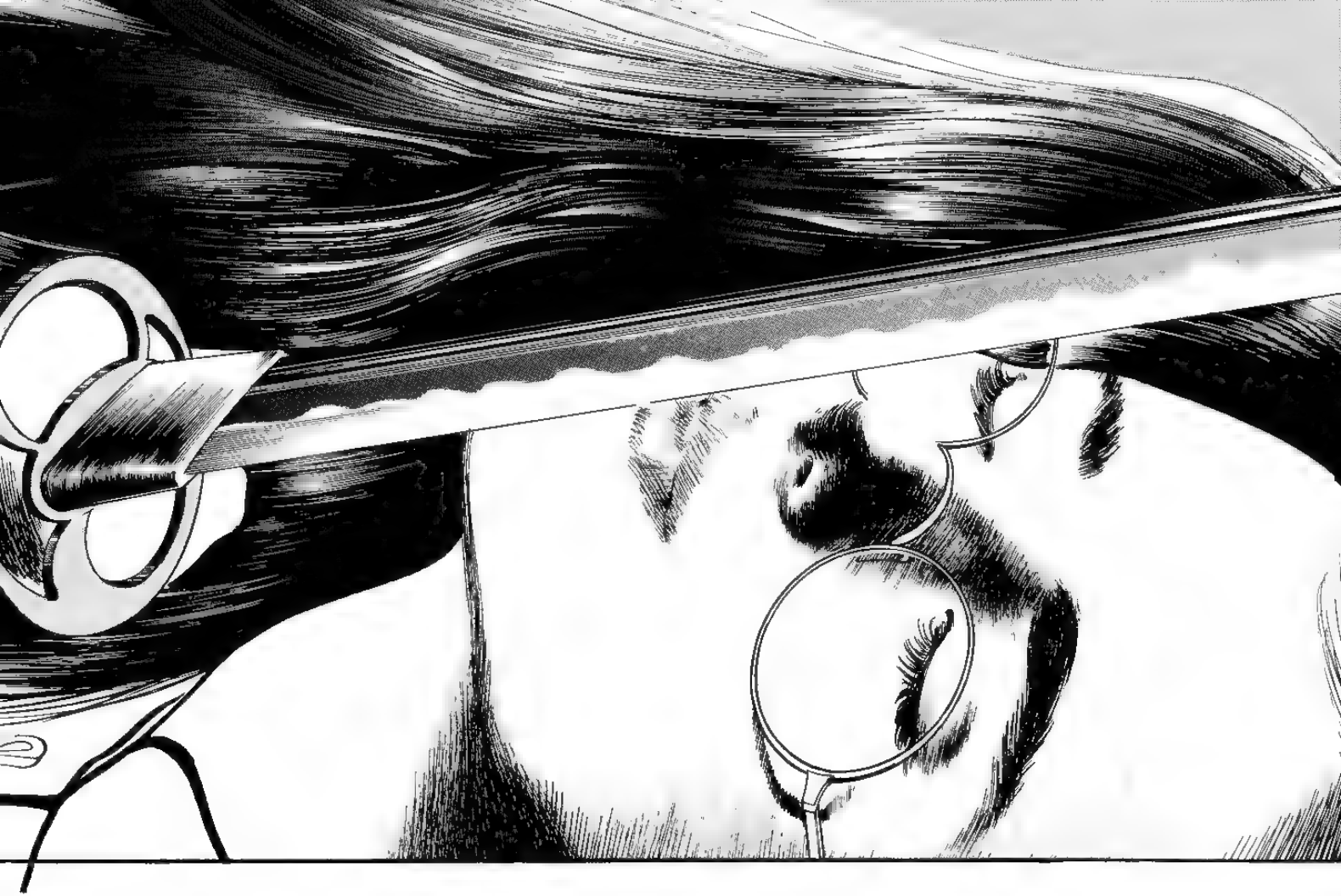

HMM.
NO. THE DOLL SEEMS SAD SOMEHOW. I FEEL SORRY FOR IT.
DO YOU FEEL LIKE SLASHING THE DOLL?

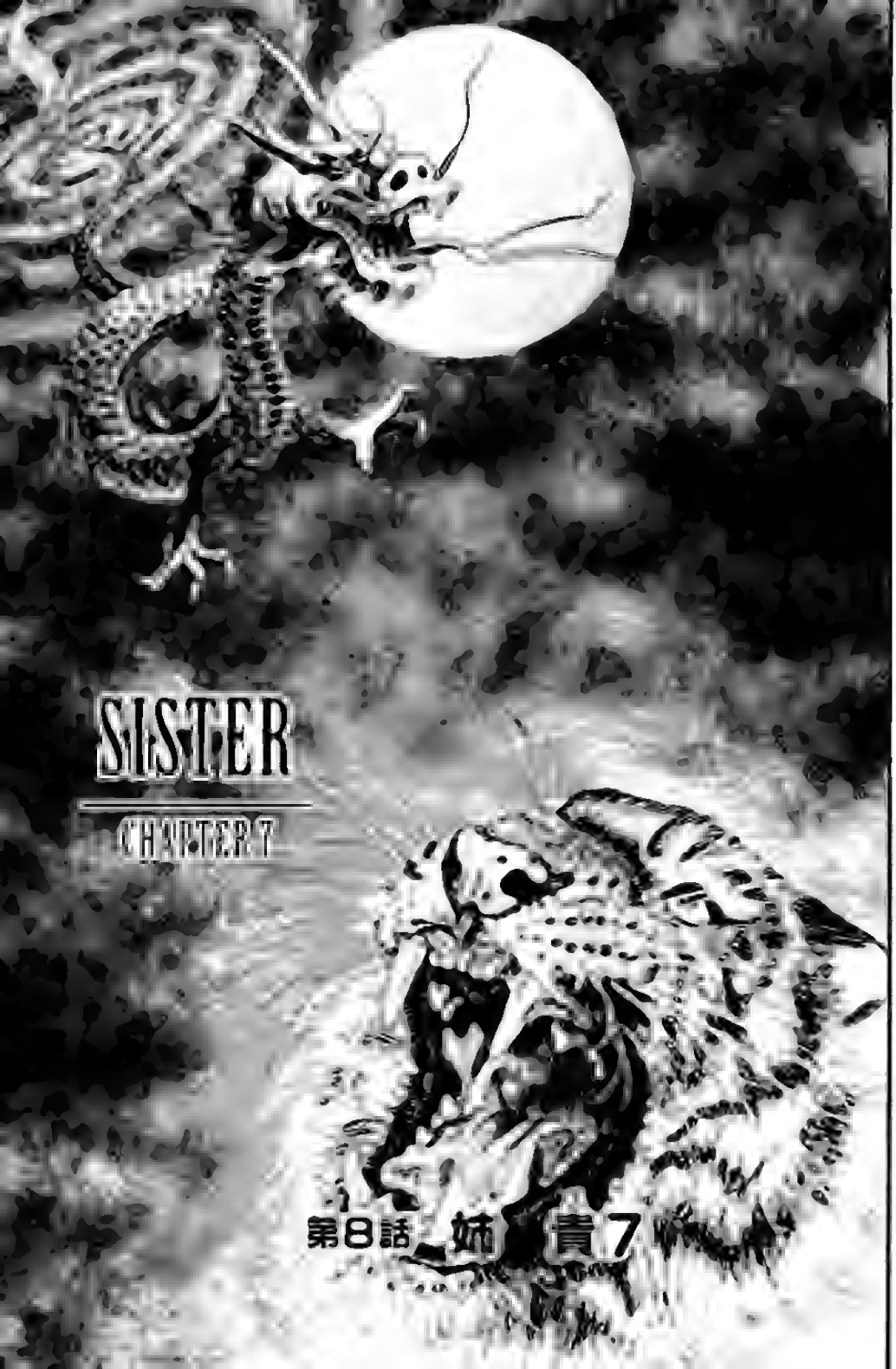
FX HUH?
<DIEEEE !!>
<WE'LL CHOP YOU TO FUCKIN' BITS!! PAYBACK FOR OUR FRIENDS!!>
*FX SHFF

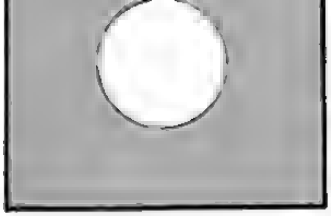

FX SHH
ス！


*FX SSZZZ SSZZZ
*FX SHING SHING
<DIEEE!!>

WHA--?! WHAT... WHAT DID I DO?
FX HJH?
WOW! BIG SIS, YOU EVEN SCARED ME!
*FX WHOA
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU CONFRONTED BAI YA SHAN WHEN SHE WAS CRAZED BEFORE, NOT IN ANGER BUT ONLY WITH DEEP LOVE AND FAITH.
IT WAS MOST UNCANNY, BUT IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED!!
I THINK MURAMASA JUST AC-KNOWLEDGED YOU AS ITS RIGHTFUL POSSES-SOR!
I'M SO HAPPY!




SISTER
CHAPTER 7
第8話 姉 責7



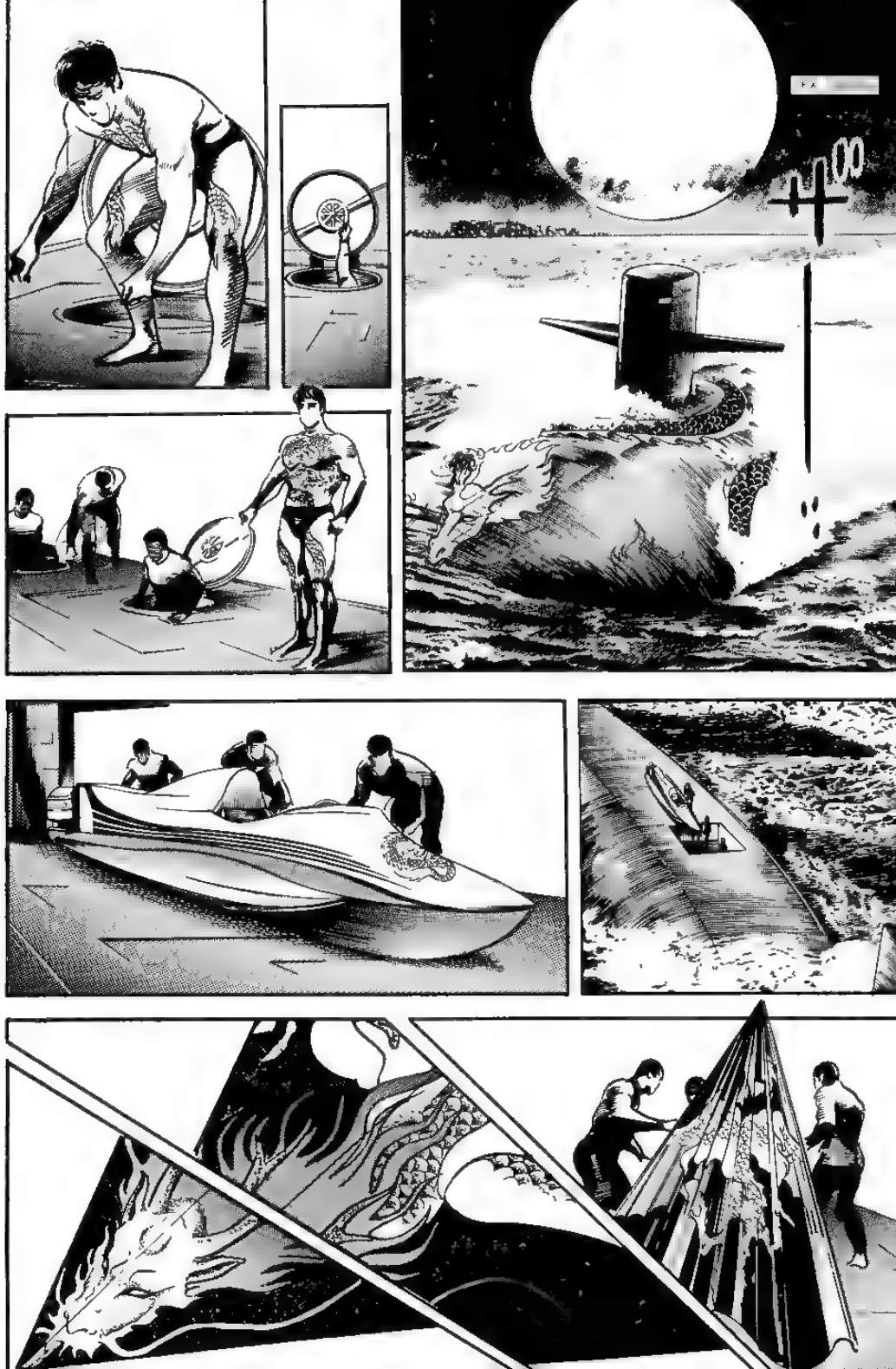
*FX THUD THUD

<BUT THIS TIME WE BROUGHT FUCKIN' GUNS!!>
<I DON'T KNOW WHAT KINDA WEIRD SHIT THAT WAS YOU PULLED BEFORE, BITCH!!>
*FX SHKK
<GET YOUR CLOTHES OFF, WOMAN!!>
<HEH HEH HEH HEH... SHE'S A PRETTY ONE...>

<WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! HURRY UP AND STRIP!! BE NICE AND DO WHAT WE TELL YA, AND WE'LL LET YOU KEEP YOUR LIVES, AT LEAST!>
<IT'S A FULL MOON ...>
<BWA-HAHAHAHA! THIS'S PERFECT!>
<HEY!! GET SOME LIQUOR!! AND BRING SOME CHICKEN, TOO!>
*FX SHFF
X ++ AAAA!
*FX SPAK SPAK
*FX RATATATAT

I'LL CUT MY WAY THROUGH THEM, AND YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GETAWAY THROUGH THE OPENING.
GIVE MURA-MASA TO ME...
<HAHAHAHAHAHA! NOT A FUCKIN' MOVE! WE'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS, AND NOW WE'RE GONNA HAVE US A BIG OLD PARTY! AND WE'RE GONNA HAVE YOU ON THE SIDE! HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!>
AND BESIDES, I HAVE MURAMASA WITH ME NOW.
YOU AND BAI YA SHAN DO NOTHING. PLEASE JUST WATCH.
THEY DON'T WANT TO KILL ME.
NO. PLEASE LEAVE THIS TO ME.
*FX SHING SHING

*FX. TINK
*FX. WHA ?
*FX. JH
*FX. SHFFF

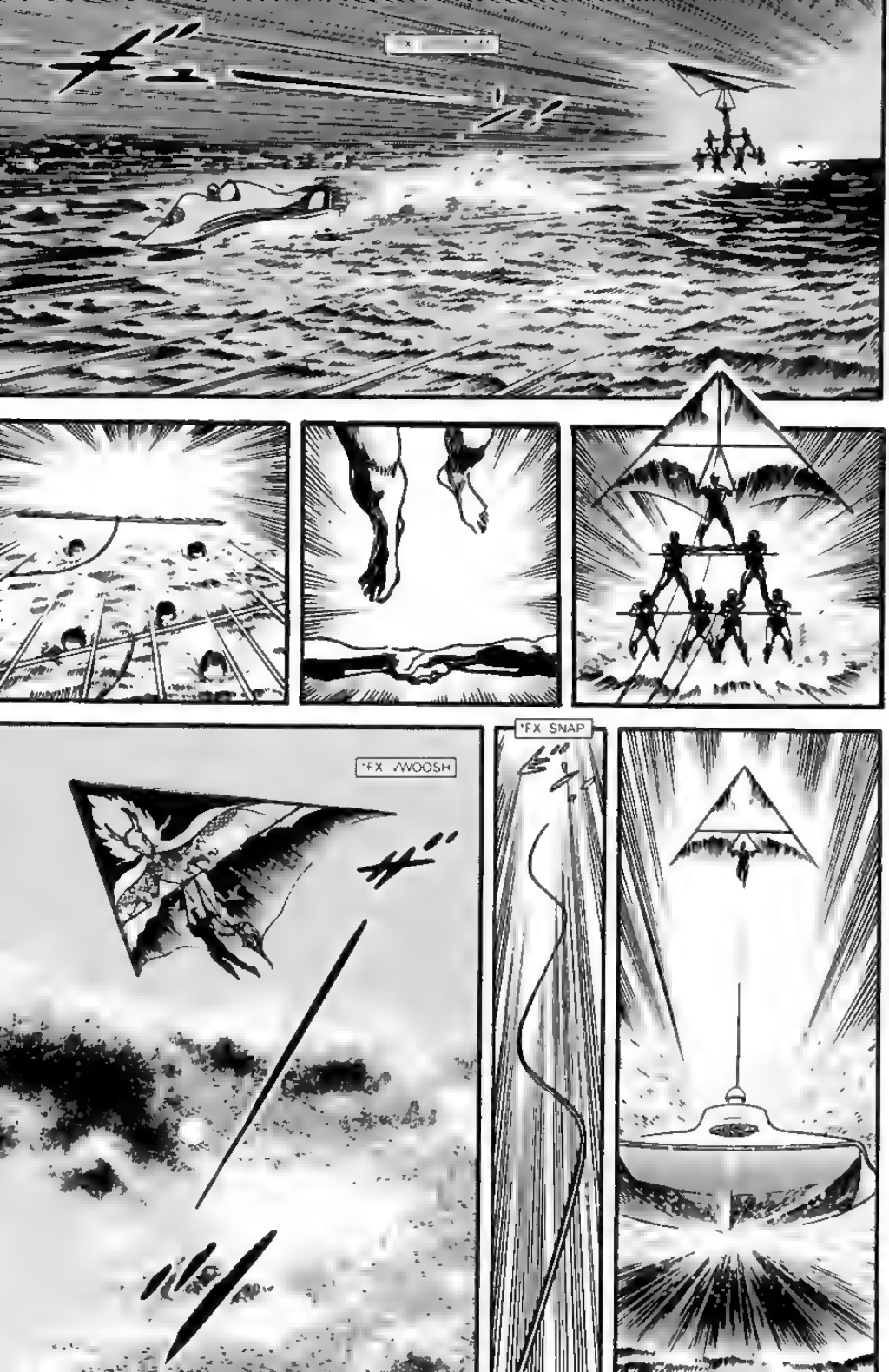


<HURRY!!>

<PERFECT... SO TOTALLY PERFECT...>
<NAKED WITH A SWORD... IT'S MAKIN' ME HOT! DANCE, WOMAN! DANCE AND FLASH THAT SWORD AROUND!>
<TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES!>
SENSEI, COULD YOU PLEASE RECITE "KAWANA KAJIMA" BY RAI SANYO?
WE'LL BE OKAY.
SISTER !!

*FX KOFF
A-
-AHEM-
...
PLEASE BEGIN.
YES...
WHIPS IN THE SILENCE, AT NIGHT THE RIVER IS FORDED...
*FX SWISH SWISH
*FX SWOOP
...IN THE DAWN ARE SEEN THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS PROTECTING THE GENERAL'S FLAG...

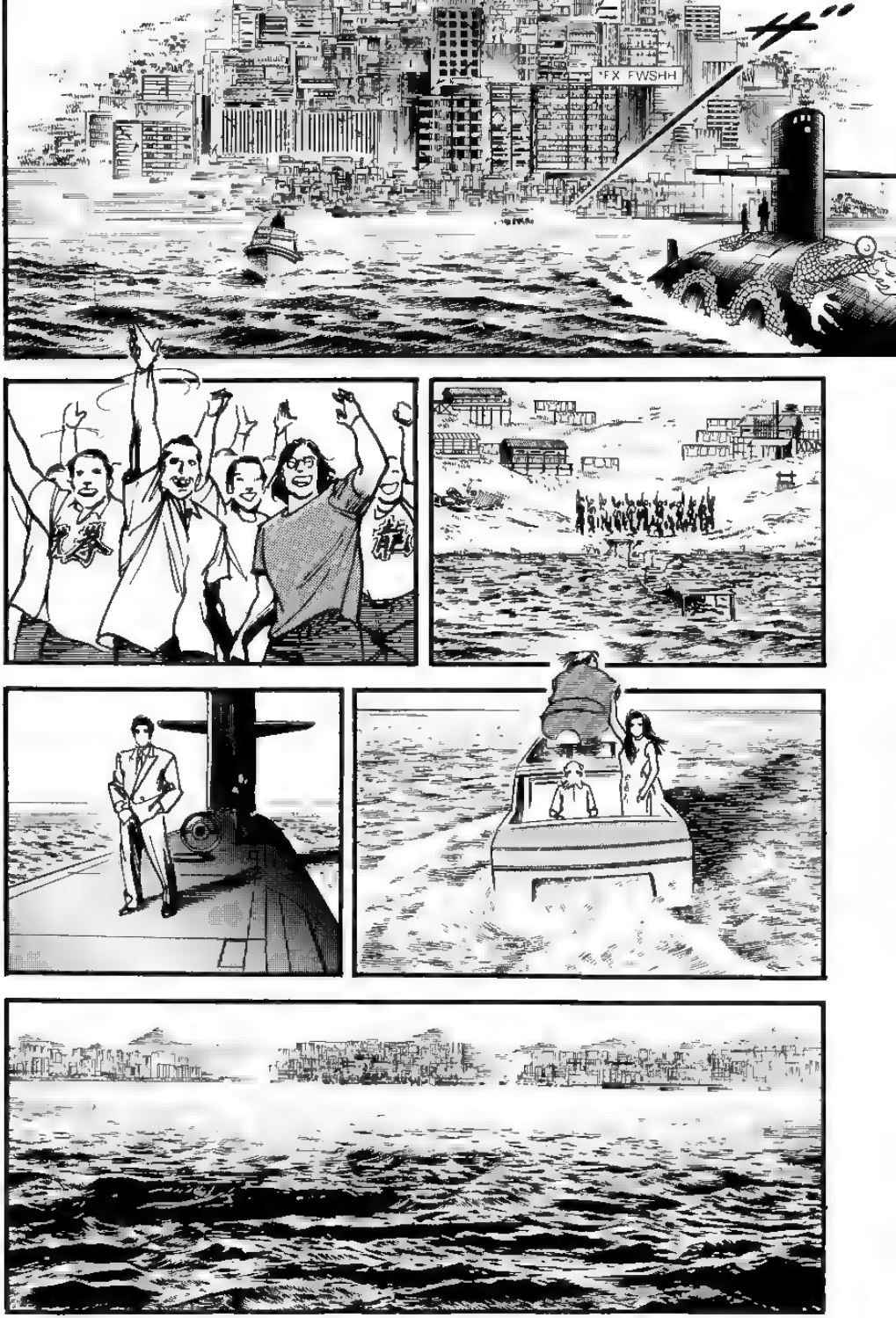
...THE SWORD HONED BY TEN YEARS OF SPITE...
*FX SHH
*FX SHH FWSHH SHH
*FX MMM
*FX ("sound" of silence)


*FX WOOSH
*FX SNAP

...IN THE FLASH OF THE BLADE, THE ENEMY SLIPS AWAY...
AAH!! A DRAGON IS COMING!!
*FX HUH?
DRAGON AND TIGER HAVE SUMMONED EACH OTHER!!
THE TIGER HAS SUMMONED THE DRAGON!

VWOOOOSH

M-MY DARLING ...
FX F. T
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NEVER BETTER!

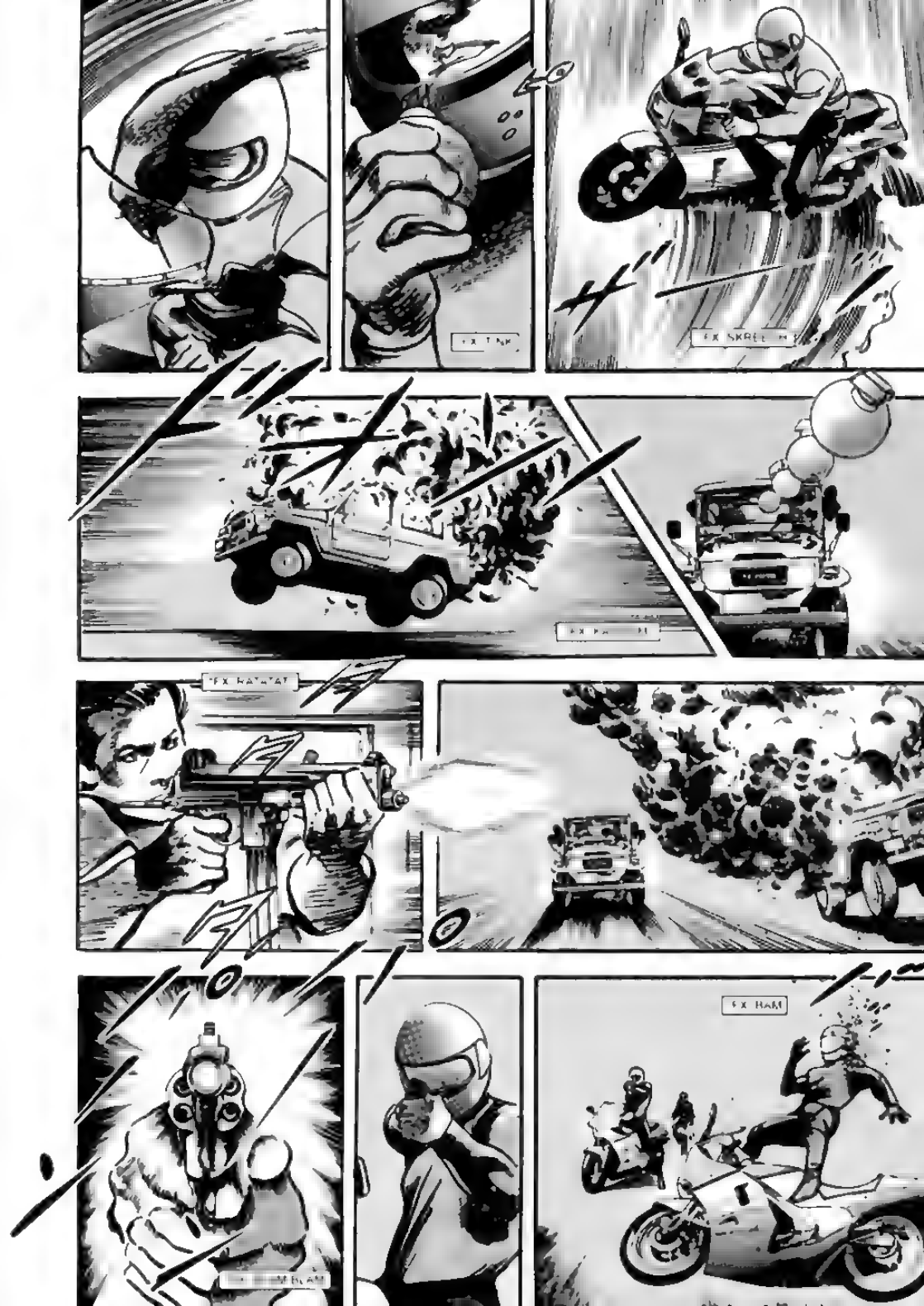

FX FWSHH

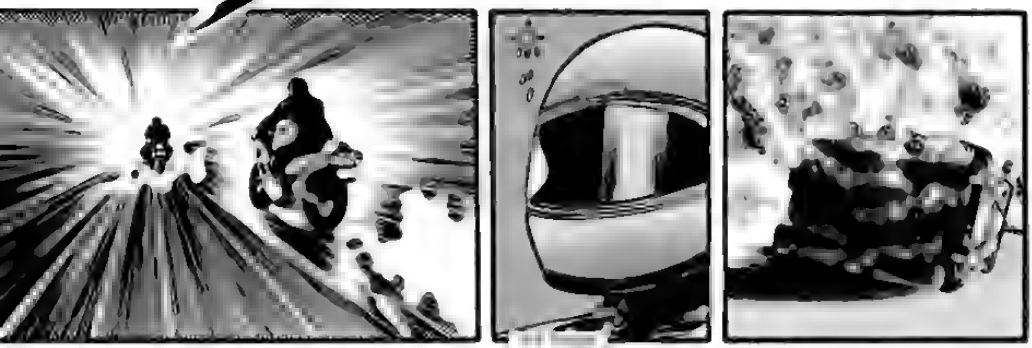
TOHGOKU OSHU

CHAPTER 1

第9話　雄首冬獄(1)

TOYOTA


SFX TINK
SFX SKREE
SFX BANG



*FX RRMM RRMM
RRMM RRMM

*FX SHFF
*FX CLIK
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. YOU HAD TO COME THIS WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE.
YOU OUGHT TO GET IN THE HABIT OF RELOADING YOUR MAGAZINE RIGHT AFTER A GUNFIGHT!

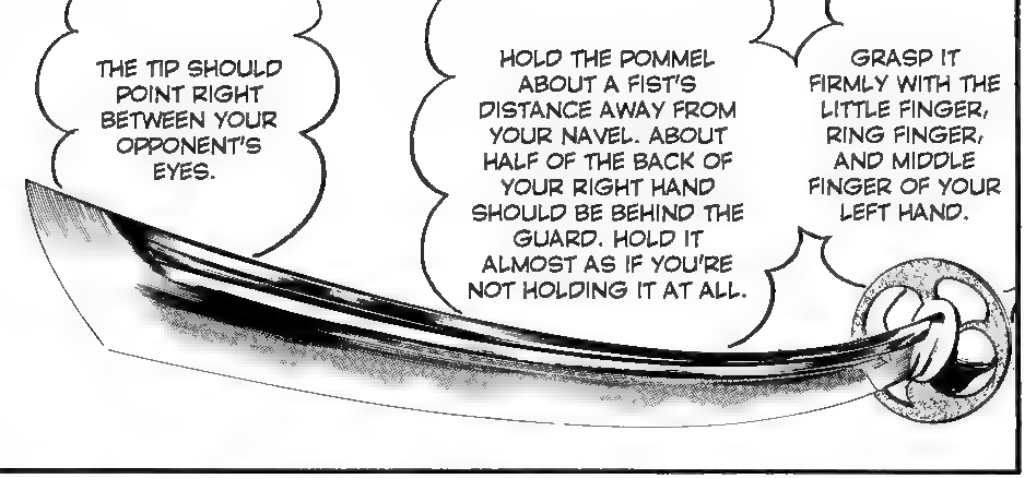
FX YEEARGH
FX
FX SHFF

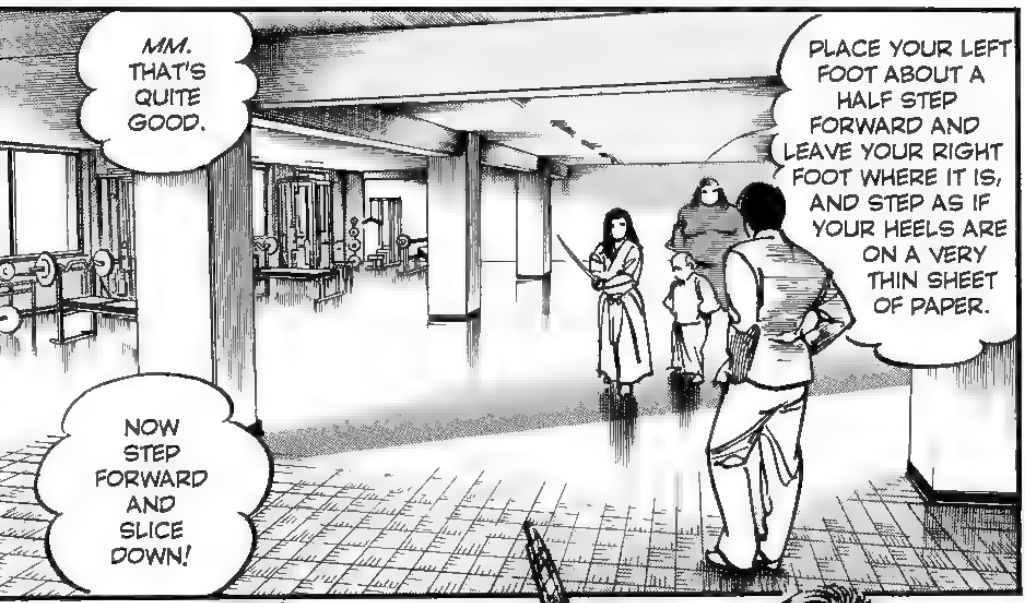
REMEMBER THAT NAME! TOHGOKU OSHU!
I AM TOHGOKU OSHU.
*FX KLANK
*FX FWISH
*FX HRRK
*FX CRAK SNAP

YEEAARGH
!!

WATCH!
IF YOU DISLOCATE ALL A PERSON'S JOINTS, THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT CRAWL AROUND LIKE A WORM!

WOBBLE WOBBLE
ゆら
ゆら
ぐにゃり
う……


THE TIP SHOULD POINT RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR OPPONENT'S EYES.
HOLD THE POMMEL ABOUT A FIST'S DISTANCE AWAY FROM YOUR NAVEL. ABOUT HALF OF THE BACK OF YOUR RIGHT HAND SHOULD BE BEHIND THE GUARD. HOLD IT ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE NOT HOLDING IT AT ALL.
GRASP IT FIRMLY WITH THE LITTLE FINGER, RING FINGER, AND MIDDLE FINGER OF YOUR LEFT HAND.


MM. THAT'S QUITE GOOD.
PLACE YOUR LEFT FOOT ABOUT A HALF STEP FORWARD AND LEAVE YOUR RIGHT FOOT WHERE IT IS, AND STEP AS IF YOUR HEELS ARE ON A VERY THIN SHEET OF PAPER.
NOW STEP FORWARD AND SLICE DOWN!

*FX SMILE

*FX HIYAA

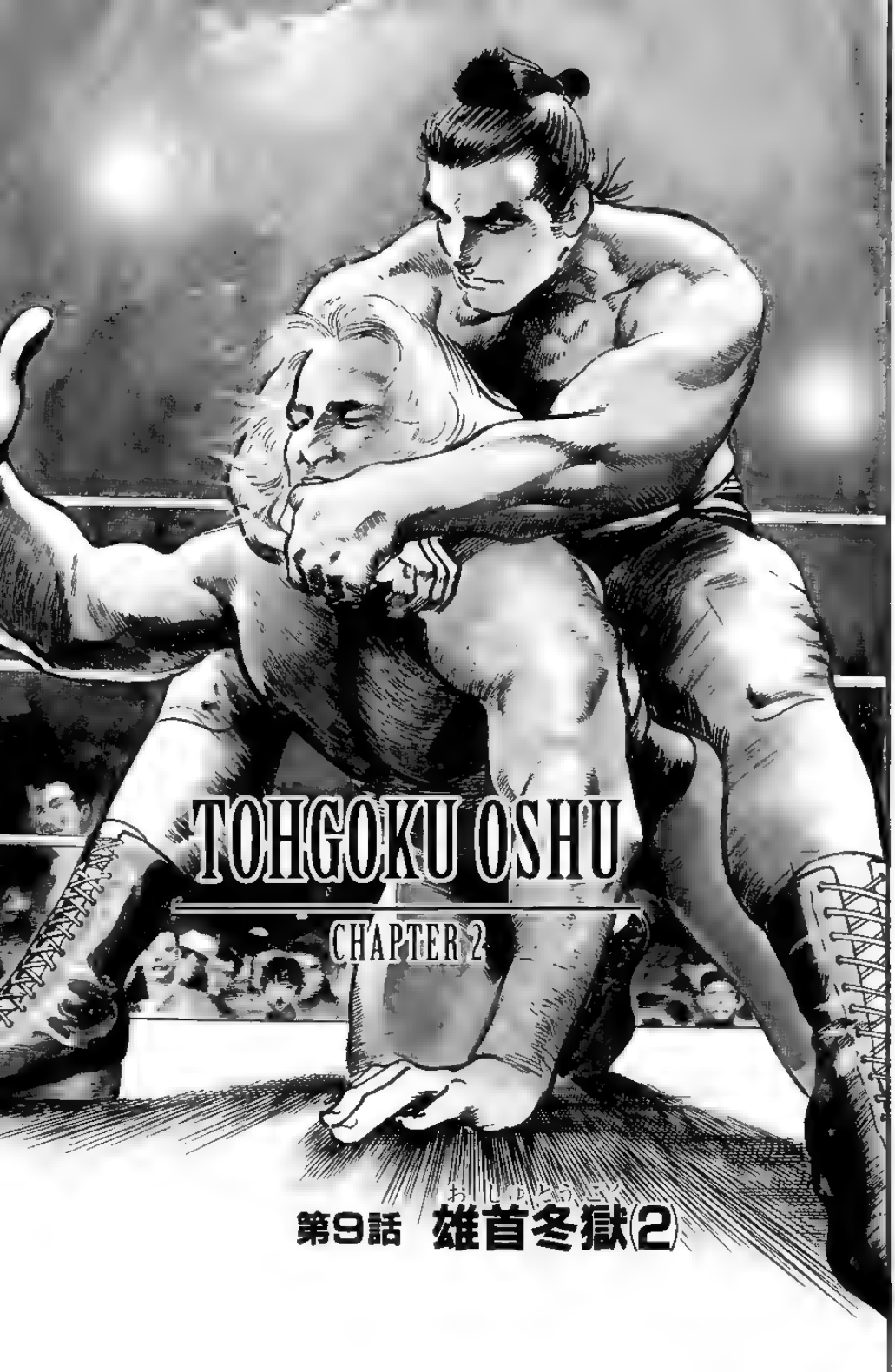
*FX SLRRTH SLRRTH
*FX PTOO
*FX SPT
URRGHH!!

*FX FWUB FWUB
*FX WHUD WHUD WHUD WHUD

*FX HRRR
*FX FWUB FWUB
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA!
HA HA
HA HA!
*FX GRIN
*FX HAHAHAHAH
HAHAHAHAHA
HA HA HA
HA HA!
HA HA HA
HA HA!

THEY SAY A WILLOW'S BRANCHES DO NOT BREAK IN THE WIND, NOR DO THEY BREAK UNDER SNOW.
YOUR GRIP IS TOO STRONG. LESS STRENGTH IN YOUR ARMS.
IF YOU HOLD THE SWORD SOFTLY, GENTLY, IT TOO, LIKE THE WILLOW, WILL NOT BREAK UNDER WIND OR SNOW.
EVEN ME ...
WE FAILED... TOHGOKU OSHU KILLED... ALL OF US.
THIS CAME IN FIVE MINUTES AGO.
*FX C.IK

I'VE HEARD OF HIM.
TOHGO-KU OSHU...
THAT'S ALL OF IT.
FX HMPH
HAVE THE DRAGON SUB ON STANDBY! WE'RE GOING TO JAPAN!!



第9話 雄首冬獄(2)

HRRK HRRK

COME!
COME GET ME, FREE-MAN!
FX: GRN

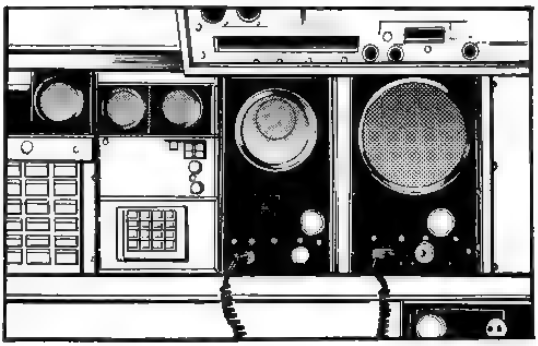
ONE... TWO... THREE ...
*FX WHACK
*FX RAAAHHH
*FX CLAP CLAP

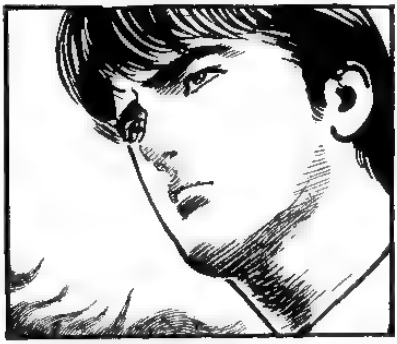
COME
TO
JAPAN,
NOW!!

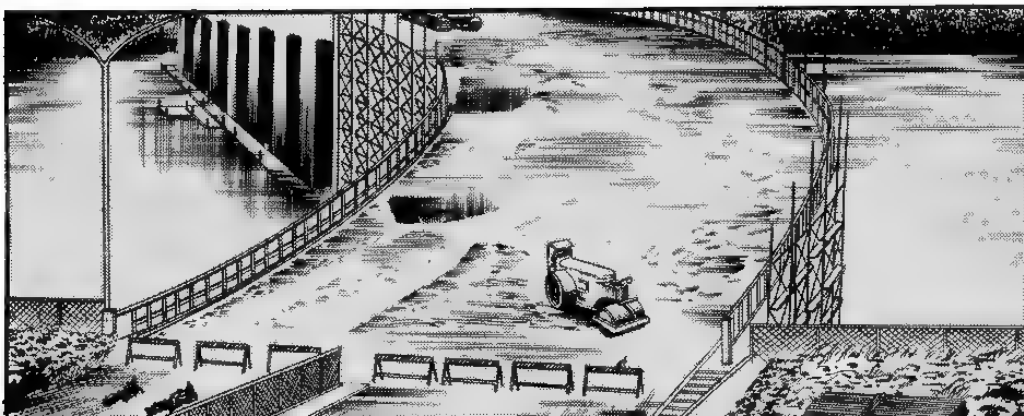
IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS ALREADY... SHE'S PROBABLY... DEAD BY NOW.

.....

WE'VE HAD NO FURTHER COMMUNI-CATIONS.







*FX SSKK SSKK SSKK
*FX SPLOOSH
*FX SHSSKK SHSSKK

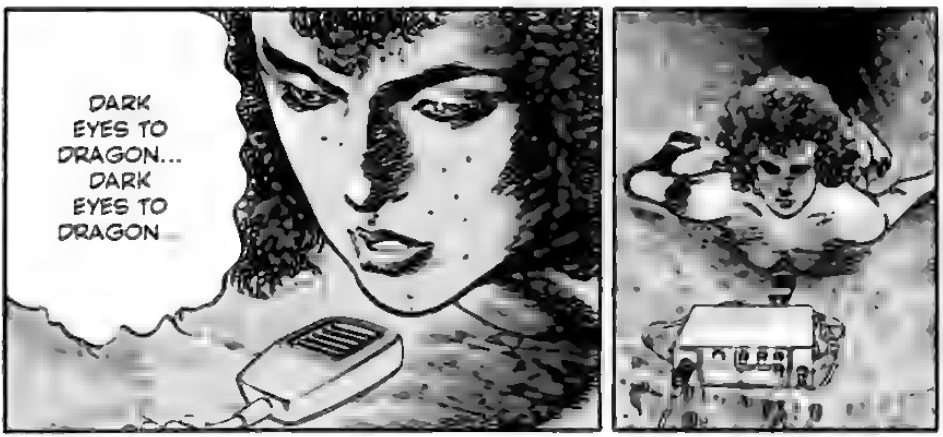
*FX CLIK

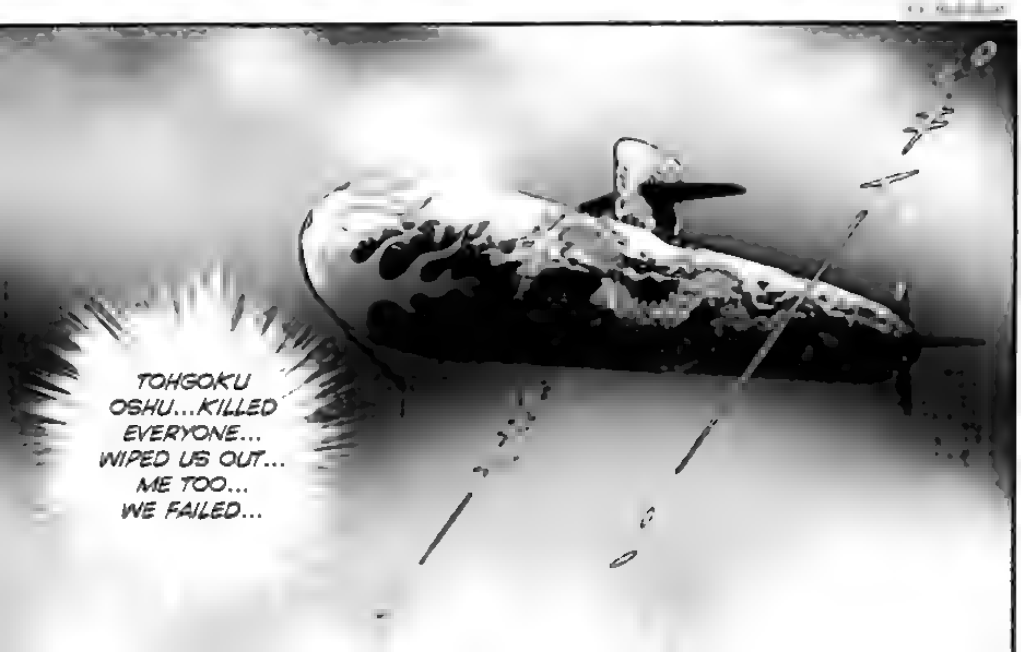
I WANT YOU TO DEFEAT *FREEMAN* THE SAME WAY!
THANK YOU, MA'AM.
THE MATCH WAS MAGNIFI-CENT.
WITH CERTAINTY! I WILL AVENGE *RAZOR RYUJI* TO REPAY THE GREAT DEBT I OWE HIM...
AND FOR THIS KNIFE SCAR LEFT IN MY CHEST...
...AND I WILL AVENGE THE *HAKUSHIN SOCIETY* CHAIRMAN TO REPAY HIS SECRET BACKING OF MY PRO-WRESTLING CAREER.

NO TURNING BACK TO THE PASTS THEY'VE THROWN AWAY
NO TURNING BACK
THE WOUND WAS NOT FATAL... BUT IT LEFT A SCAR DEEP IN MY HEART...

HE'S THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD RISK HIS LIFE TO FIGHT AND SAVE THE WOMAN.
FREEMAN WILL SHOW UP HERE SHORTLY.
F x or determ ned stare)
THAT HE IS...
*FX SLLRTH SLLRTH
*FX SLLTHHSS..TH SL..THH

*FX BEEP BEEP
*FX CRIK CRIK
000


DARK EYES TO DRAGON... DARK EYES TO DRAGON...


TOHGOKU OSHU...KILLED EVERYONE... WIPED US OUT... ME TOO... WE FAILED...

WHERE ARE YOU?! TELL US WHERE YOU ARE!! DARK EYES?!
-BEEP-
TELL US WHERE YOU ARE, DARK EYES!!
ALL KILLED BY TOHGOKU OSHU... OVER TWO METERS TALL... A GIANT... TOO POWERFUL AN ENEMY... YOU MUST BE ON GUARD...

*FX BONGBONGBONGBONG
*FX KLANNG KLANNG
*FX BONGBONGBONGBONG

*FX CHEEK CHEEK
*FX TCH TCH

CHEEK
CHEEK
CHEEEK
....'
*FX TWITCH TWITCH TWITCH
FX HR

I...
I WILL NOT DIE! BECAUSE I AM BUGNUG OF AFRICAN TUSK!!

TOHGOKU OSHU

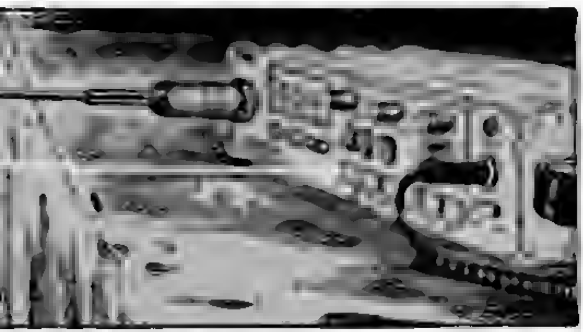
CHAPTER 3

第3話 雄首冬獄3

CALL US AGAIN, DARK EYES, PLEASE!!
ANY MOMENT WE SHOULD BE WITHIN RANGE OF TRACING BUGNUG'S SIGNAL...
WE'VE JUST PASSED 30 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE BY 135 DEGREES EAST LONGITUDE.
YES, SIR.

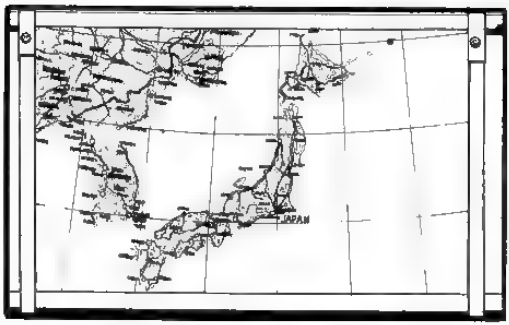
*FX CLIK
DARK EYES TO DRAGON... -:HAH:- -:HAH:-...

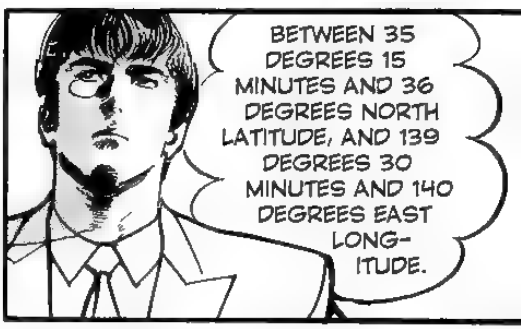
POWERFUL... INCREDIBLY POWERFUL... DANGEROUS... WHAT IS THAT...?
HAH... HAAH... I... CAN'T GO ON... ANY LONGER
ALL OVER TWO METERS TALL... A GIANT... TOHGOKU OSHU...

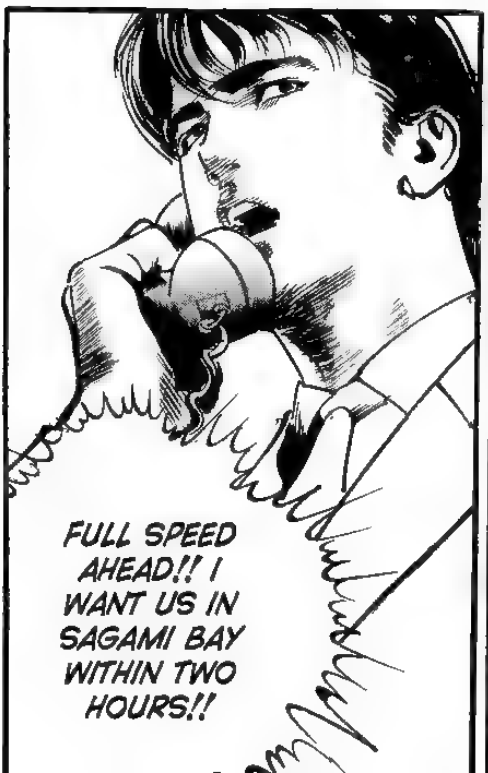


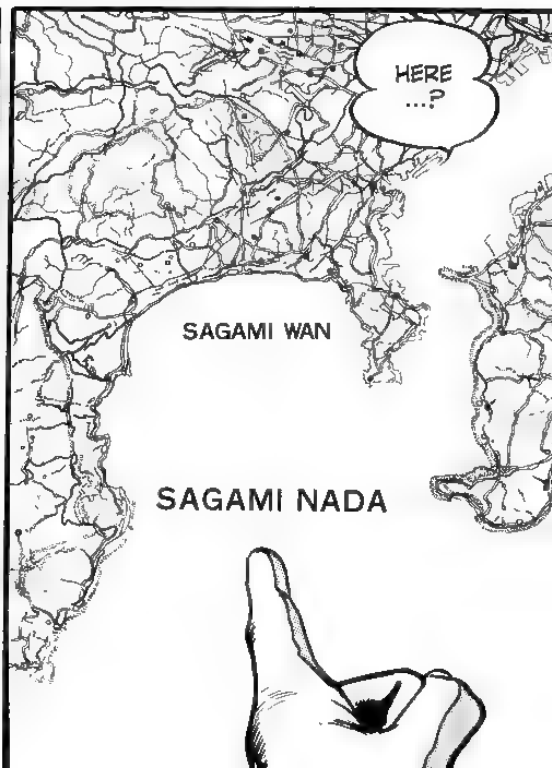
AND NOW... MY ROLE... IS FINISHED...
I SENT OUT FIVE TRANSMISSIONS.. AT LEAST ONE OF THEM MUST HAVE REACHED THE DRAGON SUB...

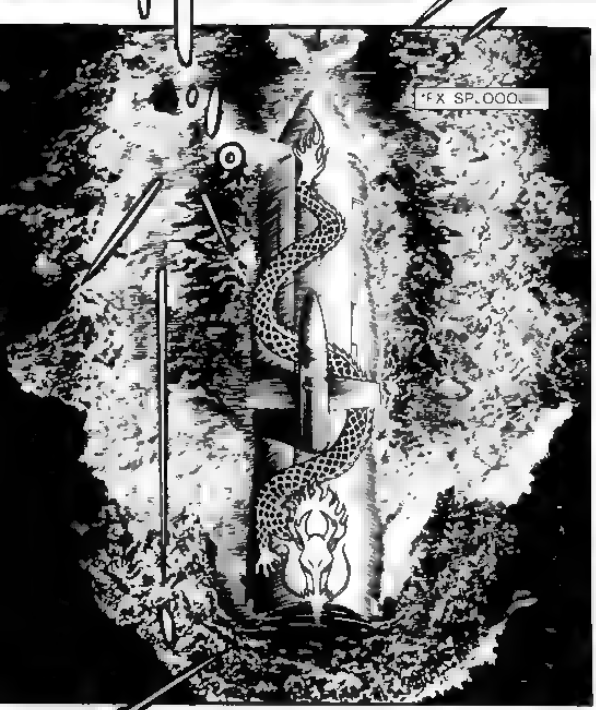
FROM WHERE?
IT... IT'S NO USE. HER TRANSMISSIONS WERE TOO SHORT. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BUT A VAGUE GENERAL DIRECTION.

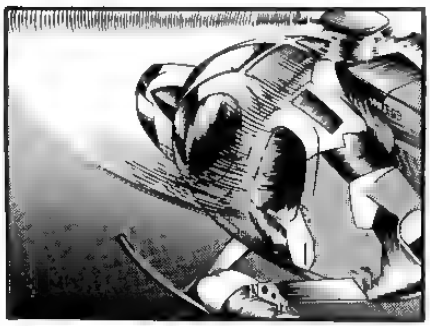

JAPAN

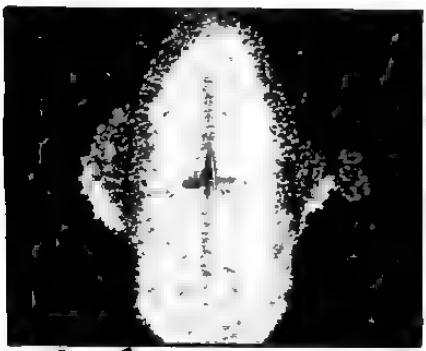

BETWEEN 35 DEGREES 15 MINUTES AND 36 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE, AND 139 DEGREES 30 MINUTES AND 140 DEGREES EAST LONG-ITUDE.

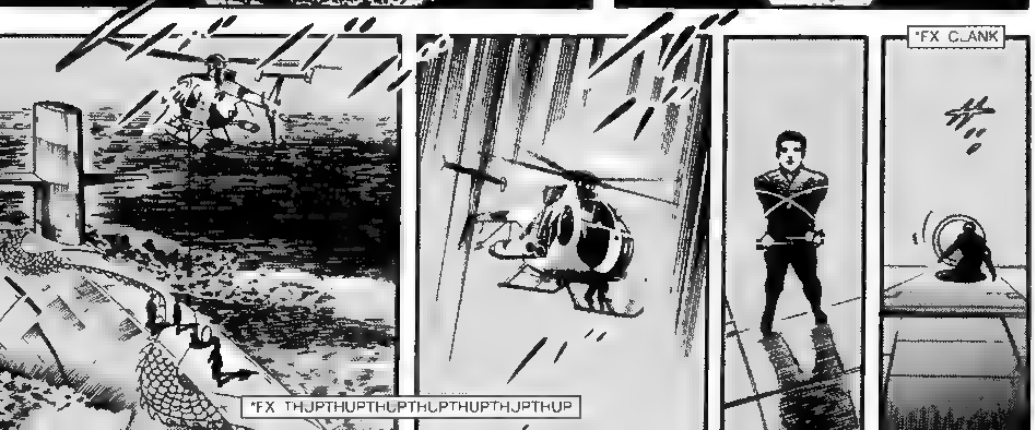

FULL SPEED AHEAD!! I WANT US IN SAGAMI BAY WITHIN TWO HOURS!!


HERE ...?
SAGAMI WAN
SAGAMI NADA

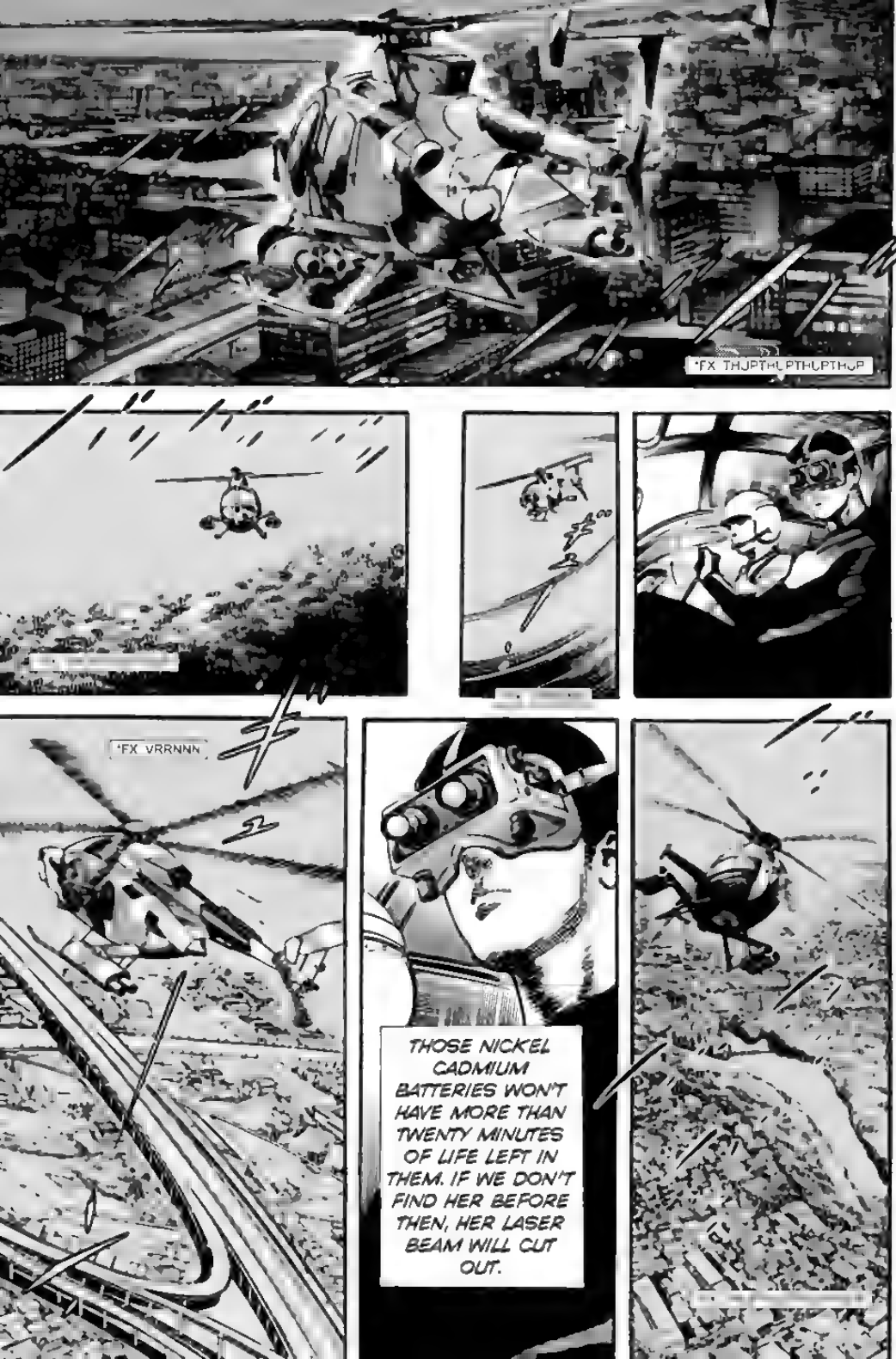

*FX SPLOOO



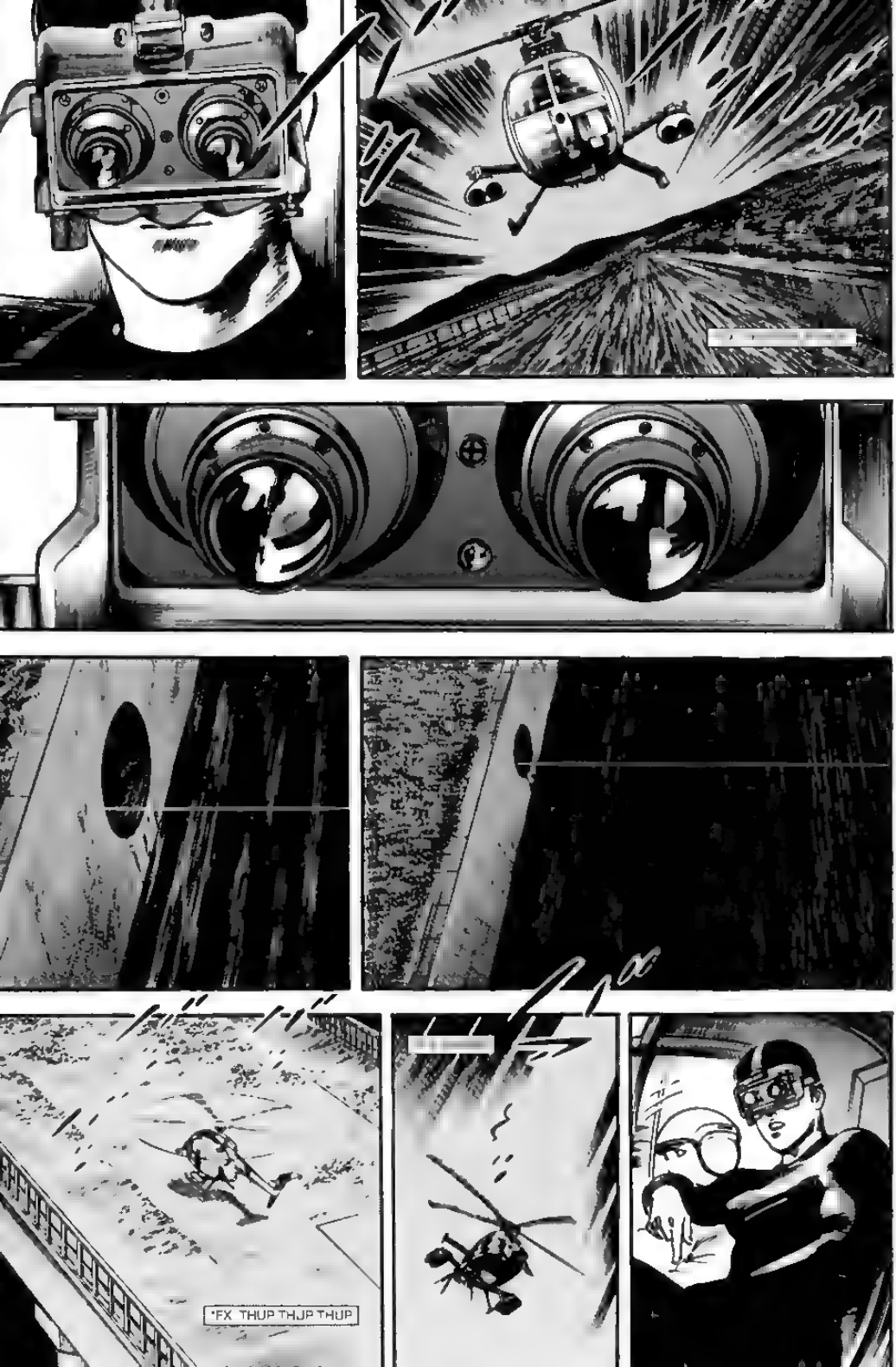



*FX THUPTHUPTHUPTHUPTHUPTHUPTHUP
*FX CLANK

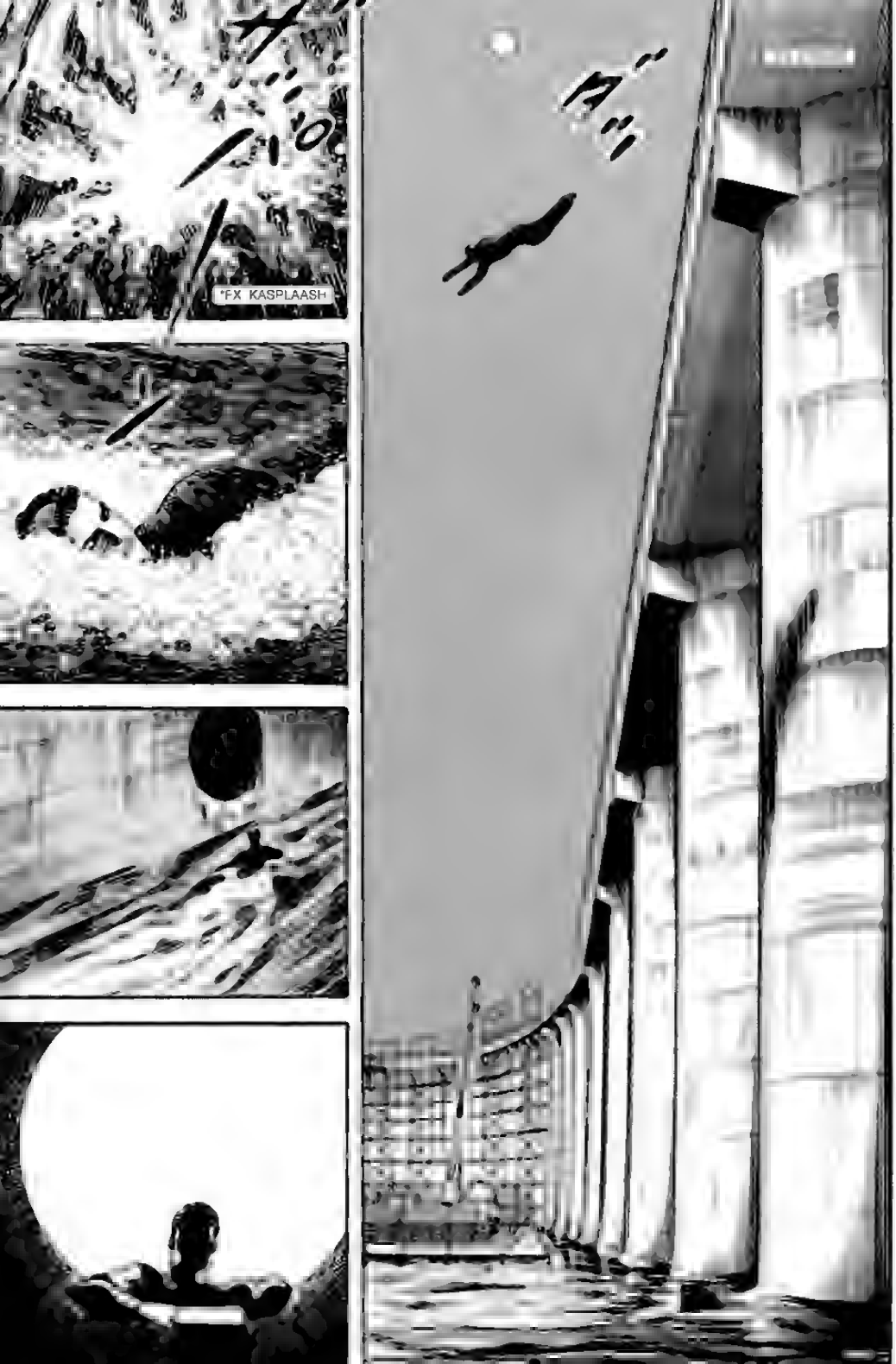
*FX VRRRNNN


*FX THUPTHUPTHUPTHUP
*FX VRRNNN
THOSE NICKEL CADMIUM BATTERIES WON'T HAVE MORE THAN TWENTY MINUTES OF LIFE LEFT IN THEM. IF WE DON'T FIND HER BEFORE THEN, HER LASER BEAM WILL CUT OUT.

*FX HAHAHAHA!
*FX VNN VNN VNN
S-STOP THE BOAT!!
*FX HUH?


*FX THUP THUP THUP

JUST
IN
TIME...


*FX KASPLAASH

DARK EYES
SHE'S ALIVE

HUHHH...
H-HER JOINTS ARE DISLOCATED ...?!
HRRR...
*FX HFFF
*FX CRMK
*FX SNAP
*FX KRAK

UHHH
...

STAY STILL... DON'T MOVE. YOUR TENDONS ARE STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMITS. YOU NEED TO STAY RELAXED.

FX HRRR HRR

.....

*FX THUPTHUPTHUP
*FX THUPTHUPTHUP

*FX GRIN
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, FREEMAN!!

TOHGOKU-OSHU

CHAPTER 4

東国王 雄首冬獄 4

*FX THUD! THJD!

*FX SHFF!

YOU'D COME HERE AND THROW AWAY YOUR LIFE FOR A *WOMAN*, FREEMAN?

WHAT RUMOR IS THAT?
I'VE HEARD SO MANY RUMORS ABOUT YOU THEY MAKE MY EARS RING, BUT THERE'S ONE OF THEM I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO BELIEVE, FREEMAN.
IS IT TRUE YOU HAVE A WIFE?
MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME THE TRUTH BEFORE YOU DIE.
I DO LOVE HER.
DO YOU *LOVE* YOUR WIFE?
IT IS.
...THAT YOU'D JUST LET HER DIE? HOW CAN THIS BE TRUE?
THAT YOU WOULDN'T SAVE HER...
IF THIS WIFE OF YOURS WAS ABDUCTED AND HELD HOSTAGE BY YOUR ENEMIES, IS IT TRUE THAT EVEN IF SHE CRIED OUT FOR YOU TO SAVE HER, YOU WOULDN'T GO TO HER?
THEN LET ME ASK...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
IT IS THE FORM OF OUR LOVE.
IT'S NOT ABOUT NOT SAVING HER OR LETTING HER DIE...
...WOULD YOU SUMMON THE ONES YOU LOVE TO YOUR SIDE SO THAT THEY COULD DIE THERE WITH YOU?
IF YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM... IF YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME SINGULAR CATASTROPHE ...
THEN LET ME ASK YOU...
I PRAY THAT MY LOVED ONES SHOULD LIVE EVEN IF I SHOULD DIE.
NOT FOR ME.
IT'S THE SAME FOR MY WIFE. SHE WOULD NOT LET HER LOVED ONES DIE FOR HER OWN SAKE.
THAT THEY SHOULD LIVE ON INSTEAD OF ME.
IS THAT LOVE?!

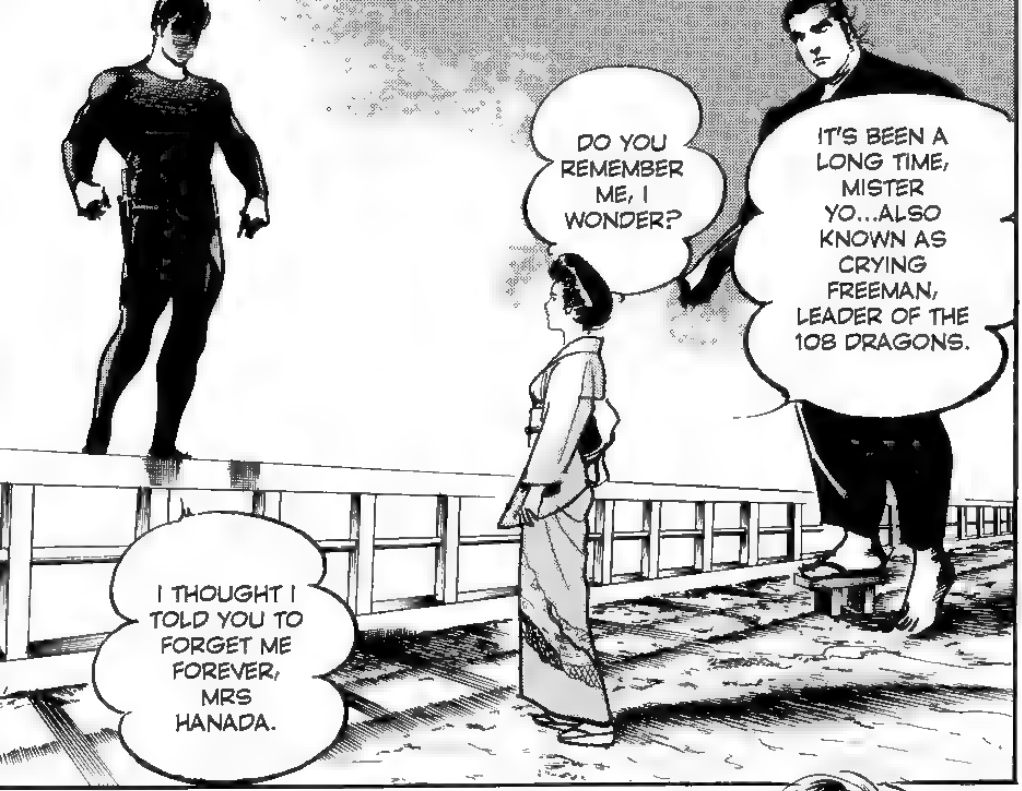
*FX SHRANKK
*FX WHFF
*FX CLANG
IT BURNS!!
LOVE IS INTENSE!!
IT'S THE TRUTH!
IT'S A MERGING OF LIVES! A COMMUNION OF SOULS!!
*FX RRNNCH KRNNK
I TOO HAVE A WIFE !!
THAT ISN'T LOVE!!
THE KIND WHO COULDN'T GO ON LIVING IF I DIED!!

SO CALL HIM HERE, TOHGOKU. I'LL KILL *HIM* ALONG WITH YOU.
I DO. A BOY. SIX YEARS OLD.
DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN, TOHGO-KU OSHU?
.....
THE OUTCOME IS IRRELEVANT. I'M TELLING YOU TO CALL THE BOY *HERE*.
HAHAHA-HAHAHA! YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BEAT ME?!
MM...
WILL YOUR WIFE HAPPILY BRING HIM HERE TO SEE THAT IT HAPPENS?
WILL YOUR SON DO YOU THE FAVOR OF DYING BY YOUR SIDE?

THIS IS HOW THE WIVES OF THE 108 DRAGONS' LEADERS HAVE SURVIVED AND FULFILLED THEIR LOVE!
LOVE TAKES DIFFERENT FORMS FOR EVERYBODY.
IT CHANGES DEPENDING ON HOW PEOPLE LIVE.
I LOVE MY WIFE. CONSEQUENTLY, I AM ALWAYS TRYING TO KEEP HER IN A SAFE PLACE, SO THAT SHE IS NOT KIDNAPPED FOR BEING THE WIFE OF FREEMAN.
WE WILL NOT DIE TOGETHER. THIS IS THE ONLY FORM OUR LOVE CAN TAKE.
*FX FLIT
*FX WHSHH

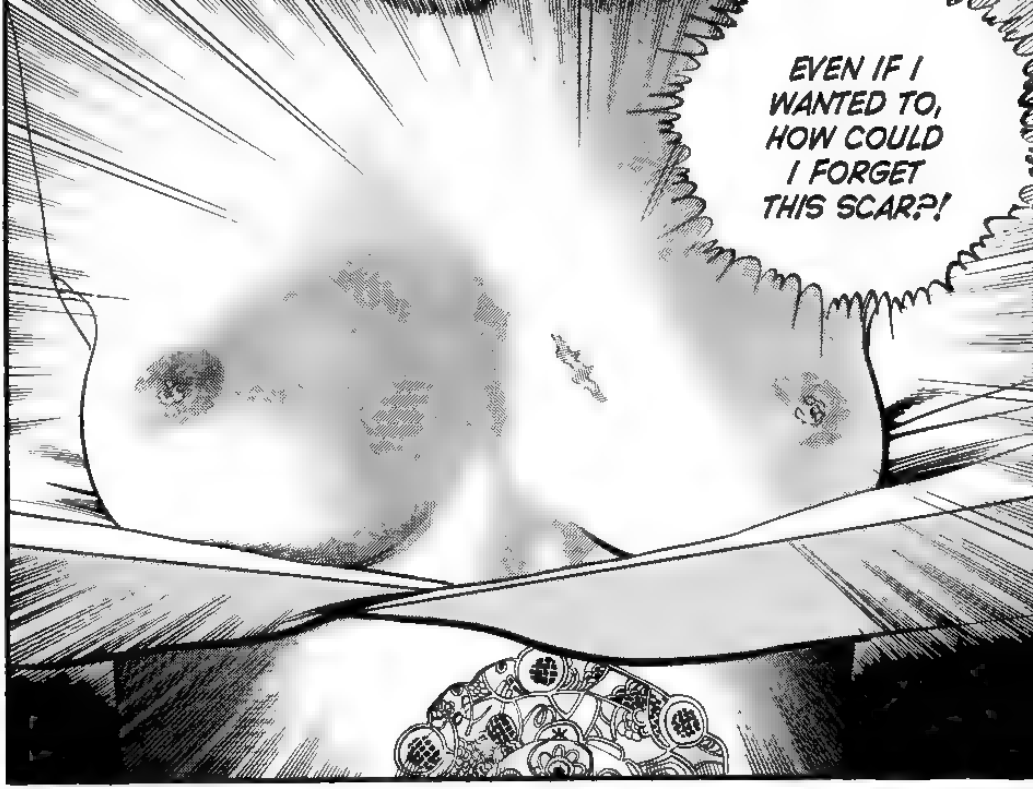
HUH?!

*FX FLIP
*FX FLIT
*FX SCREECH
*FX KACHIK


DO YOU REMEMBER ME, I WONDER?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MISTER YO...ALSO KNOWN AS CRYING FREEMAN, LEADER OF THE 108 DRAGONS.
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO FORGET ME FOREVER, MRS HANADA.

*FX SHFF

BECAUSE IF YOU DIDN'T, I'D KILL YOU.


EVEN IF I WANTED TO, HOW COULD I FORGET THIS SCAR?!

AS HER LEADER, I CANNOT LET HER DIE.
SHE IS A COMRADE. AND MY SUB-ORDINATE.

YOU DON'T LOVE HER?

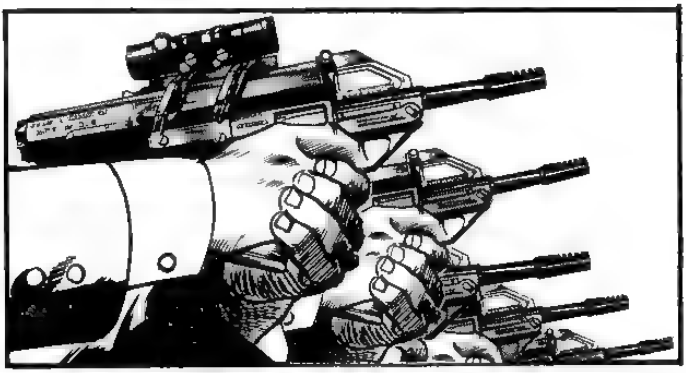
AT THE VERY RISK OF YOUR LIFE! WHY DID YOU COME?!
SO WHY DID YOU COME HERE TO SAVE *THAT* WOMAN?!

BECAUSE SHE LOVES *YOU!!*
SHE CALLED OUT YOUR NAME OVER AND OVER AGAIN WHILE I WAS RAPING HER!!
THEY DO.
DO YOUR FEMALE SUBORDINATES ALL DEVOTE THEIR HEARTS AND THEIR BODIES TO YOU?!
DID SHE?
AND SO THEY BECOME MY FAMILY.

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!! SO WHAT'S YOUR WIFE?! WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY?! HOW CAN YOU SEPARATE YOUR LOVES LIKE THAT?!
FX FWOOSH FWOOSH

*FX SHFF
TOHGOKU OSHU WAS AN ORPHAN.
*FX SHH
...TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO DIE FOR THEIR LOVE.
...IF THEY HAVE ANY LOVED ONES...
HE NEVER KNEW ANY LOVE. THAT'S WHY BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEONE, HE ALWAYS ASKS THEM...

THEN OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR WIFE AND CHILD, I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
HE BELIEVES THAT ALL MEN NEED TO BE WILLING TO RISK THEIR LIVES FIGHTING FOR THE WOMEN THEY LOVE.
THAT'S WHY HE ALWAYS KIDNAPS WOMEN TO FORCE THEIR MEN OUT BEFORE HE KILLS THEM. HE WON'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
*FX HUH?!
*FX YAAAAHH!!
WHA--



TO RETURN YOUR CHALLENGE.

NEXT TIME IT'LL BE *ME* THAT COMES TO *YOU*, MRS HANADA.

UNTIL THEN

TOHGOKU OSHU
CHAPTER 5
MIGHT
第9話 雄首冬獄5
おしゅとう

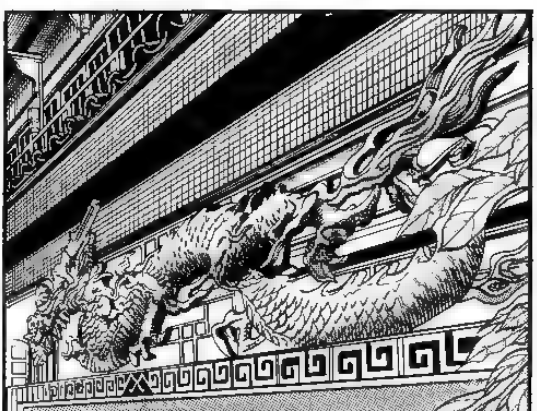
HOW ABOUT THE EXTERNAL INJURIES?
THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF AFTER-EFFECTS, BUT SHE'LL BE WALKING AGAIN SOON.
HER WILL TO LIVE IS NOTHING SHORT OF MIRACULOUS!
SHE'S QUITE WEAKENED AND HER PULSE IS FAINT, BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY DAMAGE TO HER ORGANS.
... SHE'S OKAY.
WELL DONE, DOCTOR.

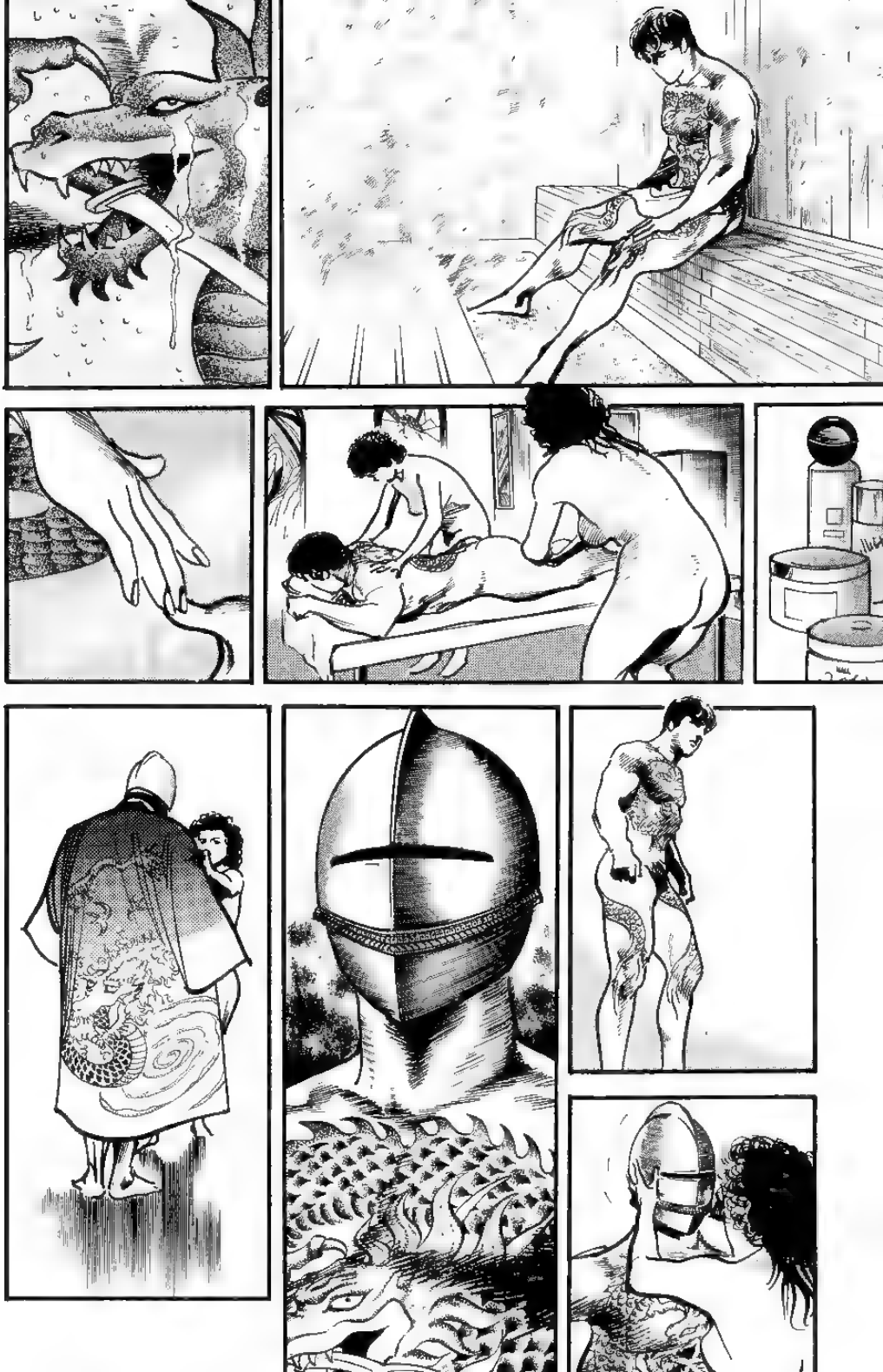
NO. IT'S THE SAME WHETHER WE FIGHT HIM NOW OR LATER. HE'S AN OBSTACLE WE WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME EVENTUALLY.
IT CAN'T BE AVOIDED.
FIND OUT WHERE TOHGOKU OSHU IS TOURING TO NEXT!
H-HEY, BROTHER... WE OUGHTTA COME BACK FRESH LATER...
GOOD. MAKE FOR KOBE HARBOR.
WE HAVE IT, SIR. HE'S ON THE ROAD FROM OSAKA TO KOBE TO HIMEJI, STARTING THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
AYE AYE, SIR!

*FX RAAAHH RAAAHH!

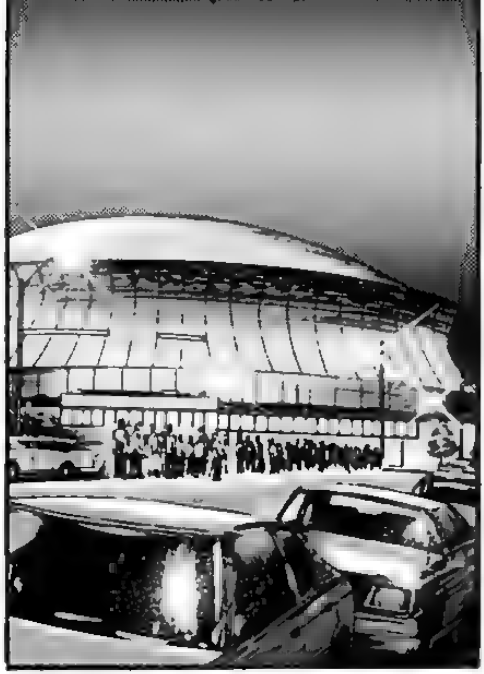
*FX WHAM WHAM
*FX DING DING DING
*FX WHAM WHAM WHAM
*FX EEEK! AAAH

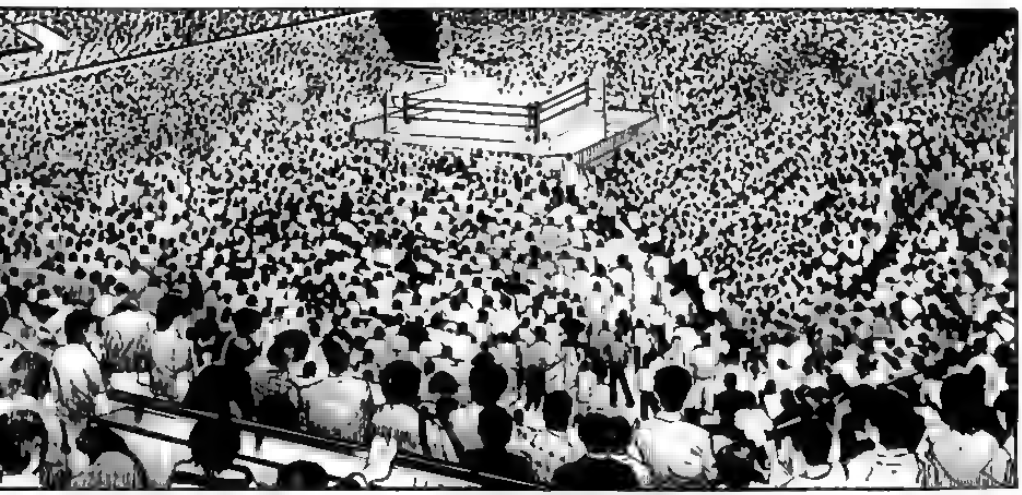
COME GET ME, FREEMAN! I'LL DO THE SAME TO YOU!
*FX SPOOOSH

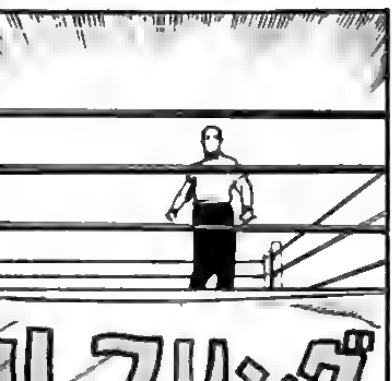




雄首冬獄
VS
マスクマン
世界ヘビー級選手権試合
*POSTER TOHGOKU OSHU VS THE MASKED MAN
WOR.D HEAVYWE GHT CHAMP ONSH P BOUT

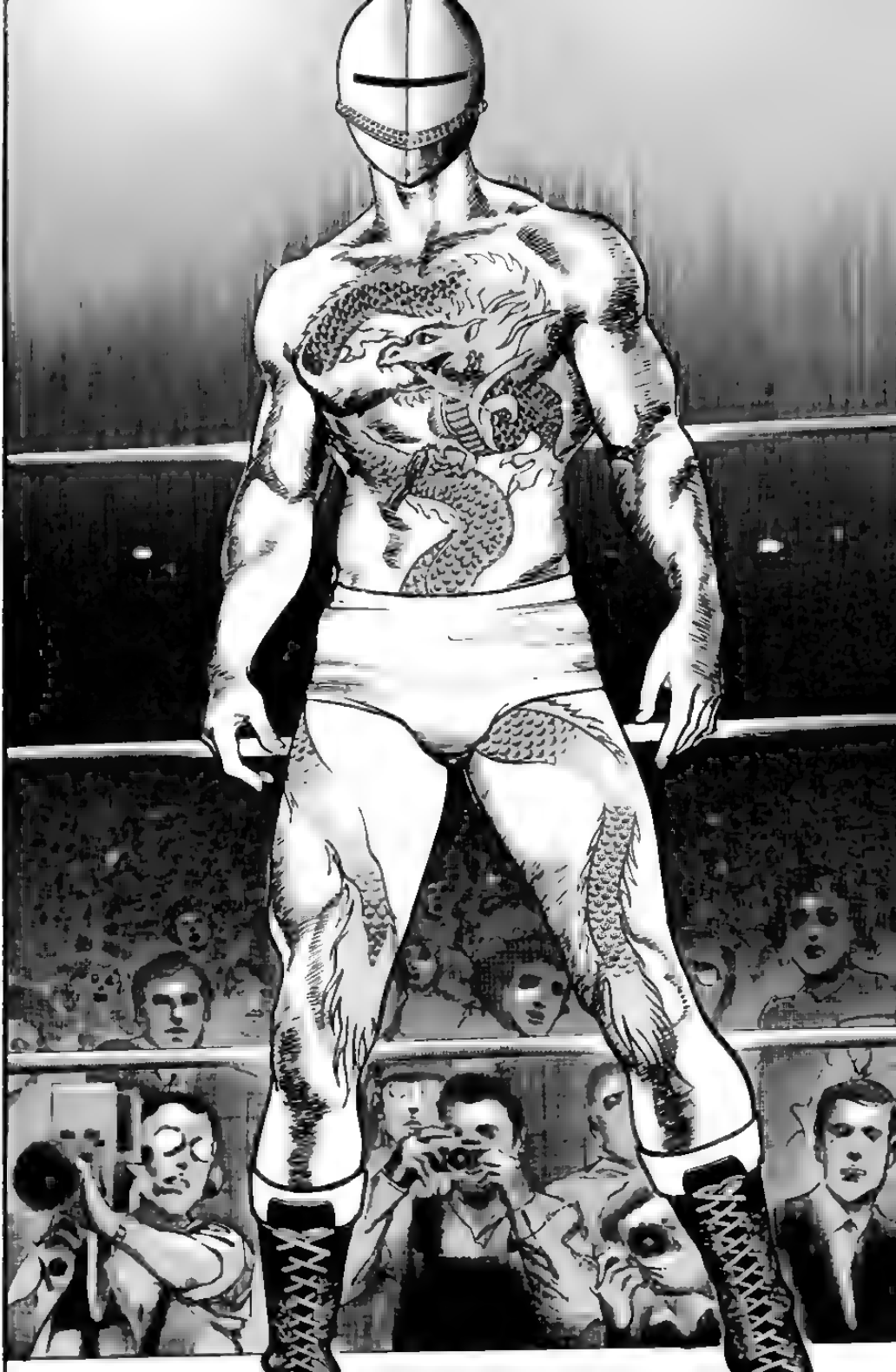






*FX RAAAHH
ALMIGHTY
*FX FWIP
*FX RAAHHH

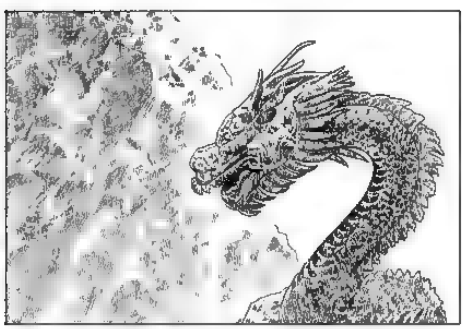
HUH?!
*FX "sound" of silence
!?
ガヤガヤ
プロレス
*FX YACK YACK
*FX HEY! WHAT?
*FX RRAAAHHH
*FX ("sound" of silence)
*FX CLAP CLAP
*FX WHA--?!
*FX AAH
*FX SHFF

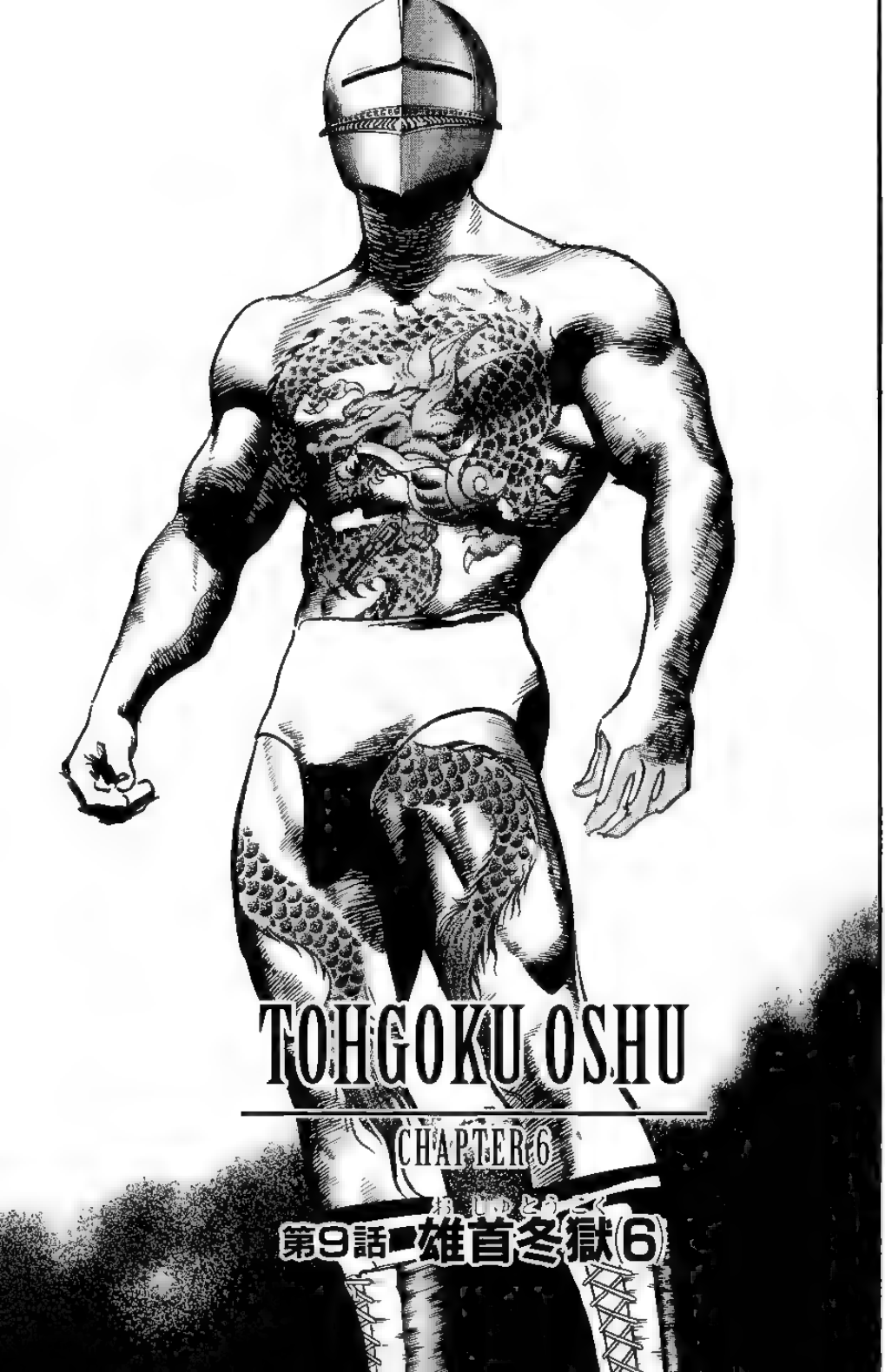


I SEE.
PASSED OUT IN HIS DRESSING ROOM
WHERE'S THE MASKED MAN?
F- FREE- MAN...
SFX FLUT
SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME, FREEMAN. TO SEE YOUR WAY TO HELL IN MY RING!
H-HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
NEVER MIND. I'LL FIGHT 'IM.
SFX WHO

...GOING TO KILL HIM!!
HE'S CRYING FREEMAN! HE'S TAKEN THE MASKED MAN'S PLACE TO FIGHT ME!! AND I'M...
*FX RRAAHHH
*FX CLAP CLAP
*FX WHRRK WHRRK

HIT THE GONG AND START THE MATCH, ALREADY!
"FX HYAAAHH"
YOU'VE MADE ME SOOO HAPPY! HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
"FX DING
FX WHO
I'LL KILL YOU, TOO... BARE-HANDED!!





TOHGOKU OSHU

CHAPTER 6

第9話 雄首冬獄(おしゅとうごく)6

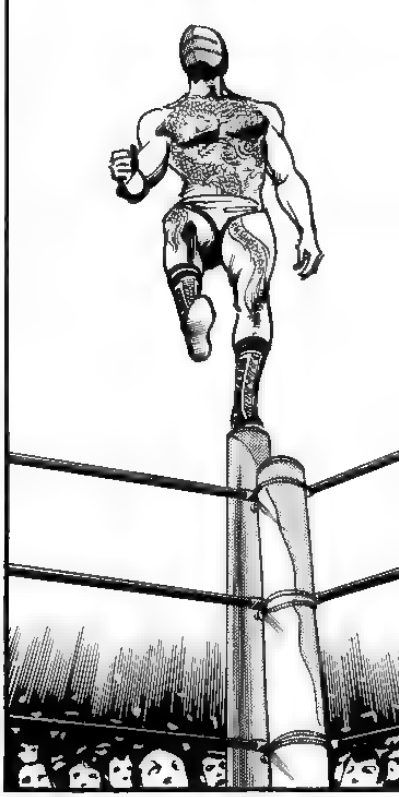
FZ400
*FX SHRRK SHRRK
OHH... SO BEAUTIFUL... UNBEARABLY BEAUTIFUL...
*FX HRRR

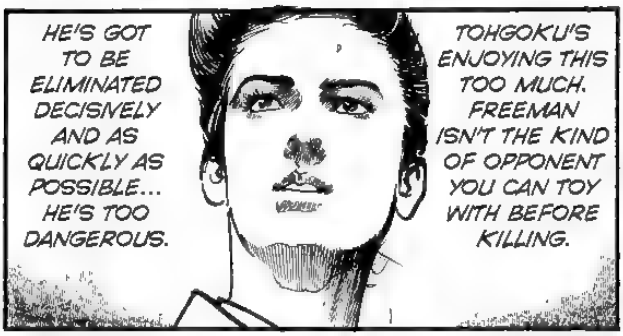
HE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT A PRO WRESTLER! I COULDN'T EVEN VENTURE A GUESS AS TO WHO HE MIGHT BE...!!
IN PLACE OF THE MASKED MAN, A *DIFFERENT* MAN HAS ENTERED THE RING, WEARING A MASK AND COVERED IN TATTOOS!
AND WHAT AMAZING DRAGON TATTOOS THEY ARE! JUST WHO IS THIS PERSON?!
WH-WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON HERE?!
*F.X. WHUD
*F.X. GRRAAHH

H-HE'S INCREDIBLY LIGHT-FOOTED!
*FX. OOOH
adidas
THEY'RE NOT STOPPING THE MATCH! THEY'VE DECIDED TO LET IT GO ON!
*FX. PONNG PONNG
*FX. FLIT
HE'S WAY OUT OF HIS WEIGHT CLASS, BUT THE TATTOOED GUY SEEMS TO HAVE SOME OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD MOVES!
AND THE TATTOOED GUY SAID THE SAME THING!
TOHGOKU SAID HE'D KILL 'IM!

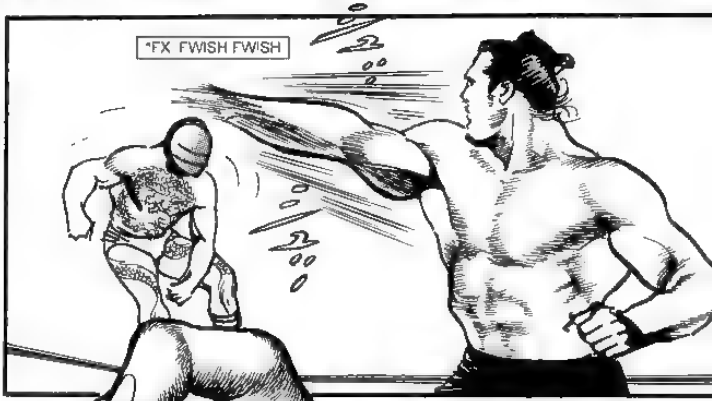
*FX BAM
*FX GRRAAHH
*FX SHH!
*FX RRAAAHH
W-WAS THAT A JUMPING KNEE BUTT JUST THEN?!
I... GUESS ...?

*FX SNEER




HE'S GOT TO BE ELIMINATED DECISIVELY AND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE... HE'S TOO DANGEROUS.
TOHGOKU'S ENJOYING THIS TOO MUCH. FREEMAN ISN'T THE KIND OF OPPONENT YOU CAN TOY WITH BEFORE KILLING.

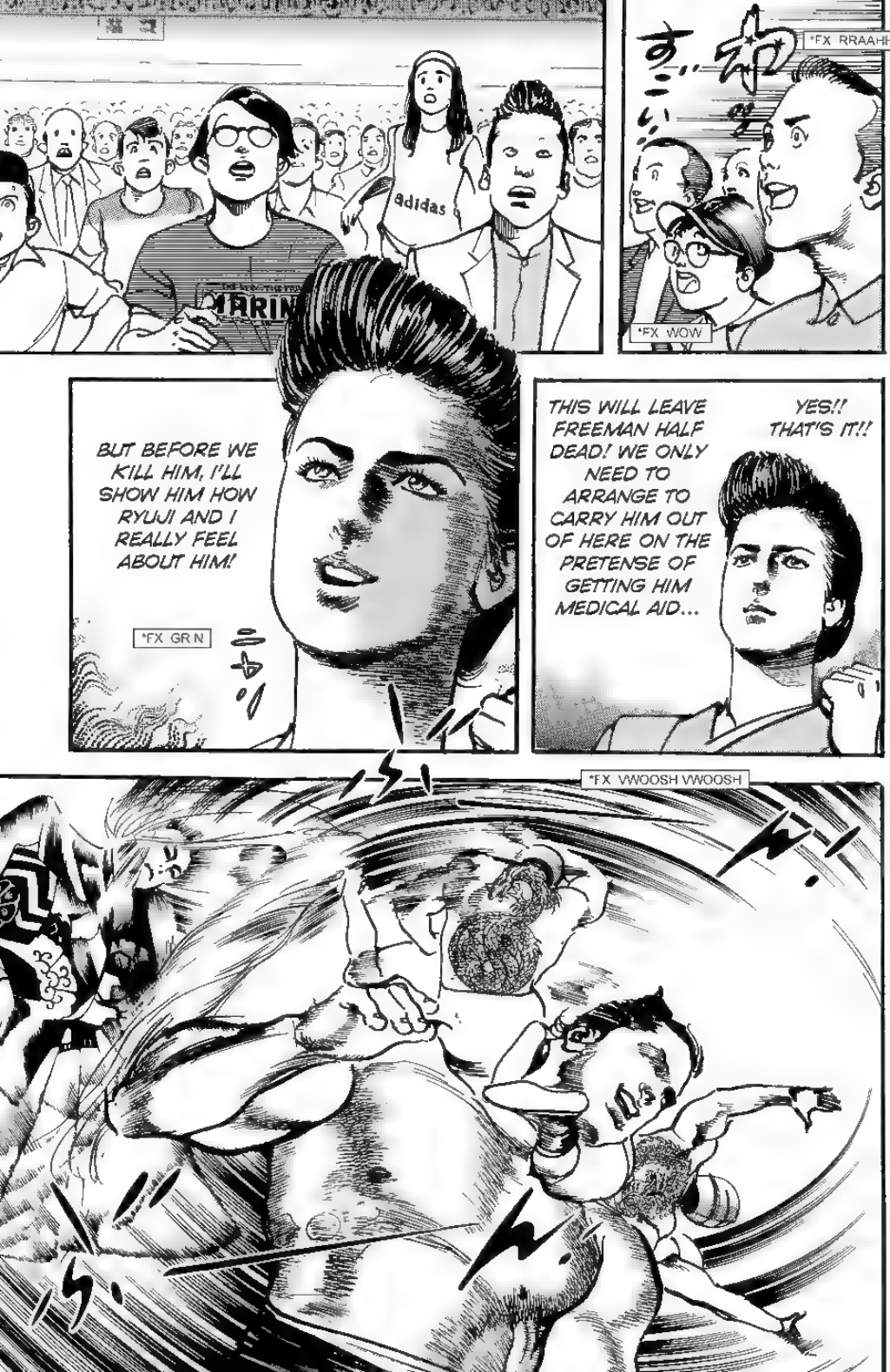
THEY CALL IT THE IRON CLAW! I'LL USE IT TO RIP OUT YOUR STOMACH!


*FX FWISH FWISH

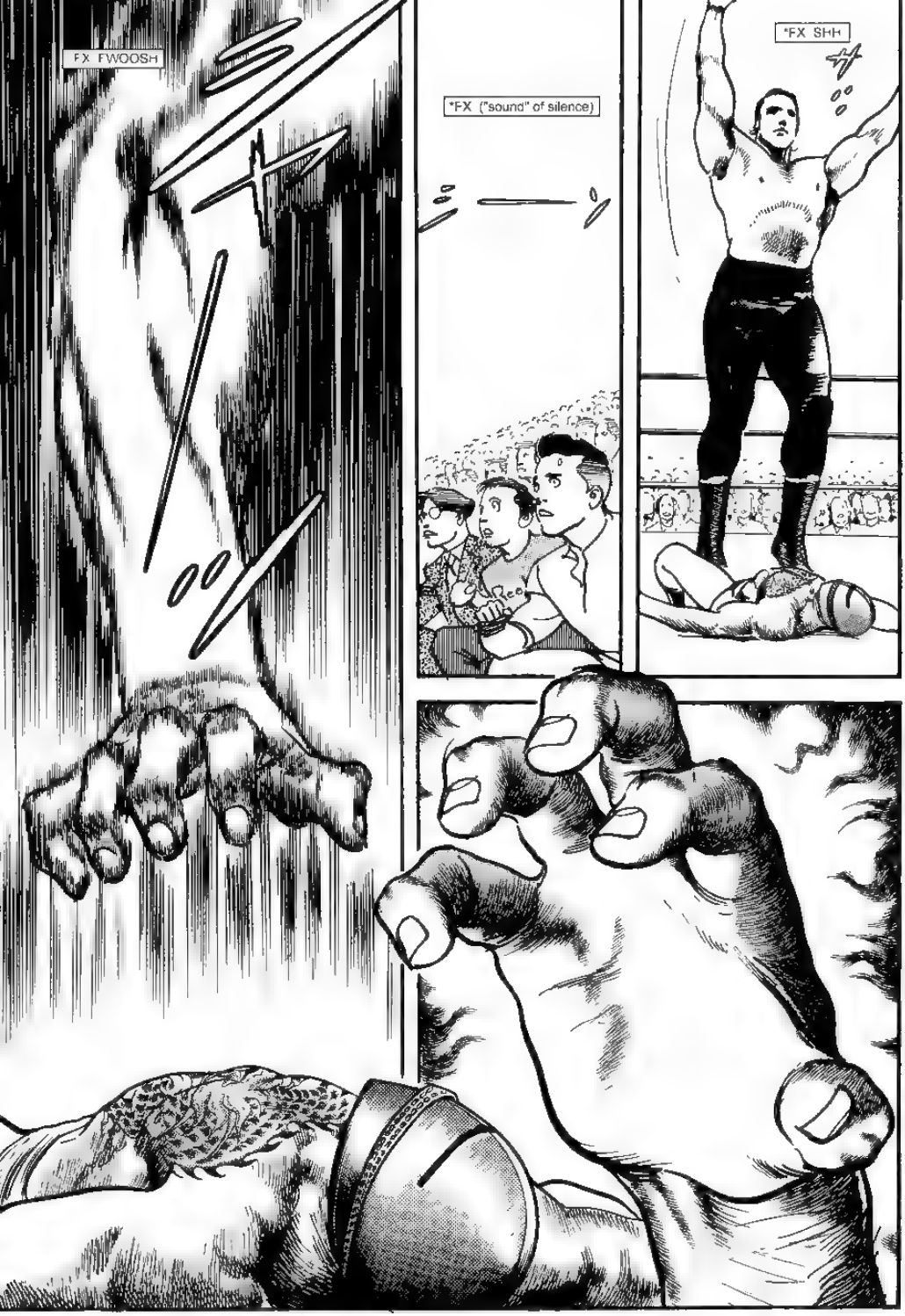
*FX TIK

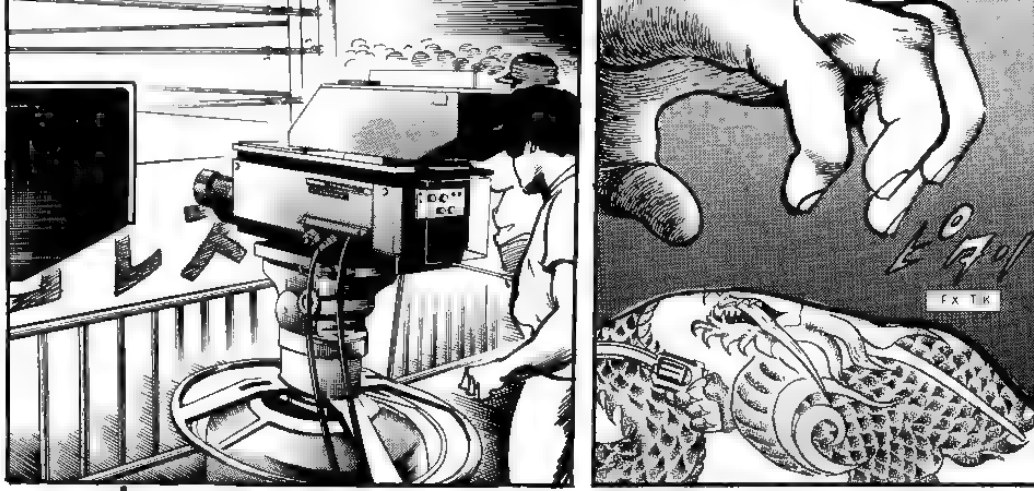
*FX FWOOSH
HRRAA-AHH!!
*FX FWIP
*FX SHH
FX OHHH
おお
*FX HRRK

WHOA! FLYING HEAD SCISSORS...!
*FX FWIP
*FX HRRK
HA HA HA HA HA! HA HA HA HA HA!
BUT HE'S IN TROUBLE! TOHGOKU KNOWS THE KABUKI-BASED KAGAMIJISHI COUNTER-ATTACK!
HA HA HA HA HA! HA HA HA HA HA!
*FX VWOOSH VWOOSH

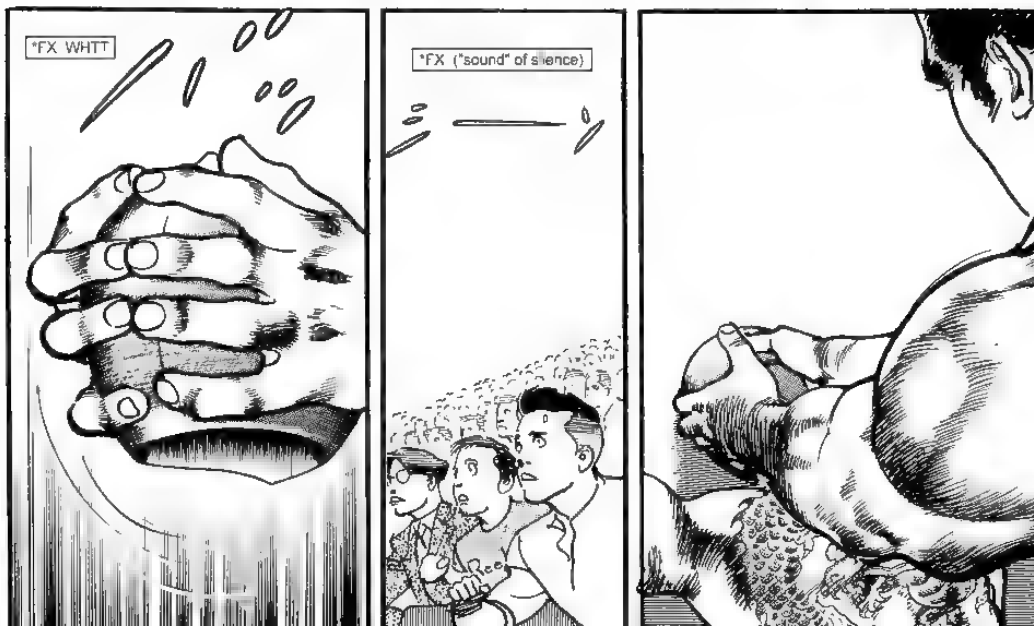

adidas
*FX RRAAHH
すごい
*FX WOW
BUT BEFORE WE KILL HIM, I'LL SHOW HIM HOW RYUJI AND I REALLY FEEL ABOUT HIM!
*FX GRIN
THIS WILL LEAVE FREEMAN HALF DEAD! WE ONLY NEED TO ARRANGE TO CARRY HIM OUT OF HERE ON THE PRETENSE OF GETTING HIM MEDICAL AID...
YES!! THAT'S IT!!
*FX WWOOSH WWOOSH

*FX WHJMP
*FX AAAHHH
*FX THOOM


FX FWOOSH
*FX ("sound" of silence)
*FX SHH


FX TIK

*FX RRAAHHH RRAAHHH
*FX CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP


*FX WHTT
*FX ("sound" of silence)

F x OOOH
Kaepa
...WHO IN THE WORLD IS THIS TATTOOED MAN, THAT HE WOULD GO THAT FAR TO TAKE THE MASKED MAN'S PLACE AND FIGHT TOHGOKU OSHU?!
BUT...
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THE MASKED MAN HAS BEEN FOUND DRUGGED AND BOUND IN HIS DRESSING ROOM!
HIS FACE IS ALL DONE UP IN MAKEUP! THIS IS TRULY NOTHING SHORT OF INCREDIBLE!

*FX. GRIN
*FX. RRAAHHH RRAAHH
*FX. PAFF PAFF
LIKE A MOTH TO THE FLAME ...
OR SHOULD I SAY "DRAGON"? HEH HEH HEH HEH!

TOHGOKU OSHU
CHAPTER 7
第9話 雄首冬獄(7)

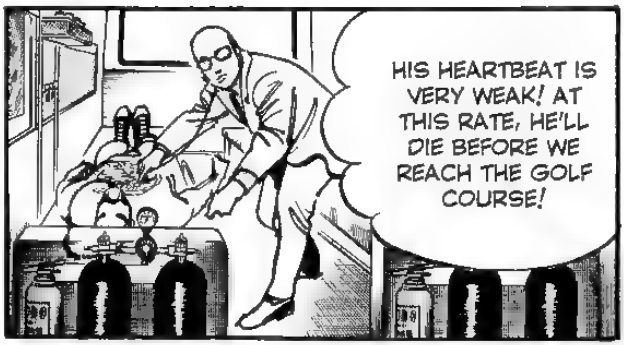
*FX PAFF PAFF
WHY DID HE TAKE THE PLACE OF THE REAL MASKED MAN?!
WH-WHO IS THIS MAN?!
IS HE SOME NEW STAR?!
FX SLAM
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? HE'S STILL OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
SHIT!
立入禁止
*SIGN NO ENTRY

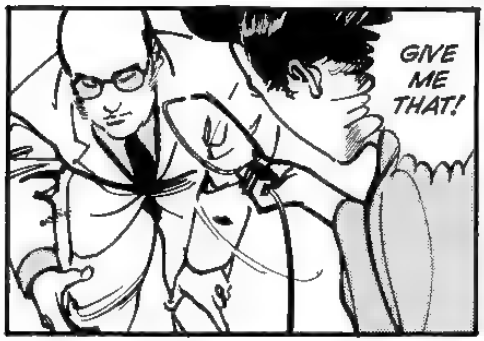
*FX THUD THUD
HEY! MR. OSHU! WAIT! PLEASE!!
THIS MUST'VE ALL BEEN PLANNED BY THE WRESTLING ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE THEIR NEW STAR. THEY DIDN'T ASK ME ABOUT IT...
...EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO KEEPS THE ASSOCIATION ON ITS FEET! I'M THEIR HEADLINE ACT! YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
*FX SLAM
EVEN THOUGH I'M A FREE AGENT!
UHH... UHH... OF COURSE!

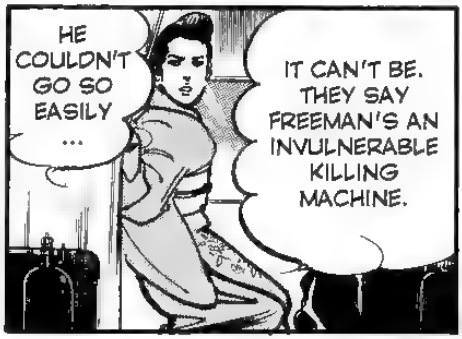
*FX CHAK
GET OUT OF HERE!!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF STUNT TO RUIN OSHU'S POPULARITY?!
WHO IS HE?! WHO'S THIS NEW MASKED MAN?!

WHERE'S THAT AMBULANCE ?!
I'VE GOT AN INJURED MAN IN HERE!! TAKE YOUR NONSENSE OUTSIDE!!

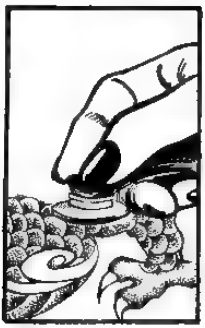
SO FREEMAN'S NOT AS TOUGH AS ALL THE RUMORS SAID...


HIS HEARTBEAT IS VERY WEAK! AT THIS RATE, HE'LL DIE BEFORE WE REACH THE GOLF COURSE!


GIVE ME THAT!


HE COULDN'T GO SO EASILY ...
IT CAN'T BE. THEY SAY FREEMAN'S AN INVULNERABLE KILLING MACHINE.

HUH?!



HMP... THUMP... THMP... THUMP...

YES, MA'AM ...
HURRY !!
O-OSHU !!
*FX WHEEOOO WHEEOOO
*FX WHFF WHFF
*FX WHFF WHFF

YOU THINK I'M LETTING YOU DIE YET? NOT UNTIL WE REACH OUR DESTINATION...
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW RYUJI AND I REALLY FEEL ABOUT YOU, ONCE WE GET THERE...

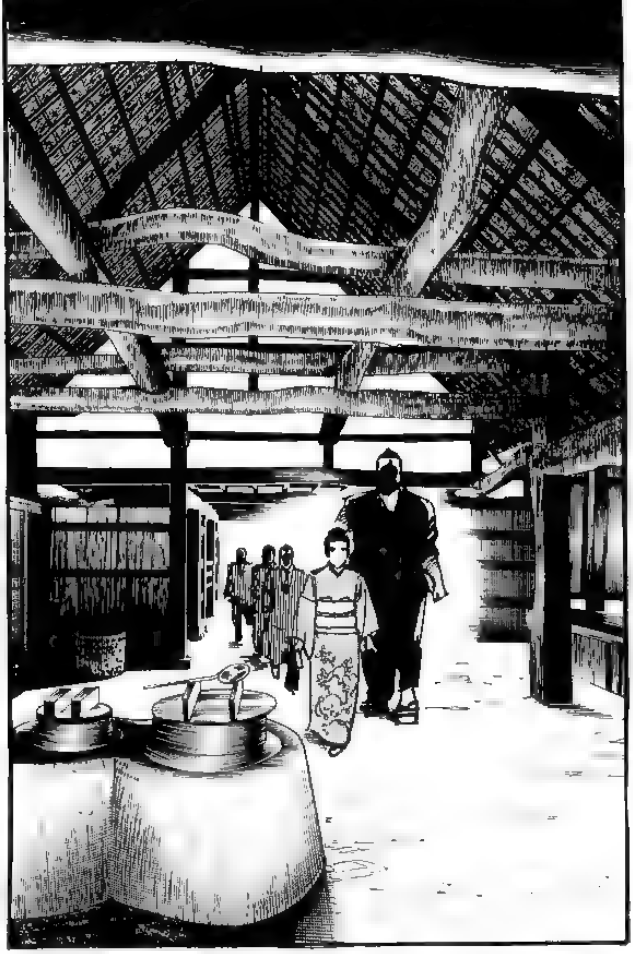
*FX VRRR

*FX THUP THUP THUP THUP
*FX THUP THUP THUP THUP

SOMEHOW... WE MADE IT IN TIME. THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN FOR US.
THE PLACE WHERE YOU CARVED A HOLE IN MY CHEST... WEST IZU, THE HINOMURA KILN...

PUT HIM IN THE CELL NEXT TO CHAIR-MAN IMAIDA'S!

YES, MA'AM!



WE'LL SEE THAT HE HAS A MOST SLOW AND BITTER TORTURE BEFORE WE KILL HIM.
FREEMAN'S A LITTLE BIRD IN OUR CAGE NOW.

AREN'T WE JUST GONNA KILL 'IM AND GET IT OVER WITH?

WHA--?!

HMPH!! MAYBE HE USED THAT BREATHING TECHNIQUE THEY SAY HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM ANCIENT CHINA?!
HOW IS HE SO WELL?!

スト〜ン
*FX THMP

SO THIS IS YOUR HIDEOUT NOW... IT NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME.

YOU KNEW THAT AS LONG AS YOU FOUGHT ME AS A PRO WRESTLER, I COULDN'T KILL YOU IN THE RING, DON'T YOU?! SO YOU LET US TAKE YOU TO THE RIGHT PLACE...
Y-YOU LOST TO ME ON PURPOSE!!
...THE PLACE YOU KNEW FOR SURE WOULD PUT YOU ON THE TRAIL OF KANTO RAILWAY CHAIRMAN IMAIDA!!

*FX SMIRK

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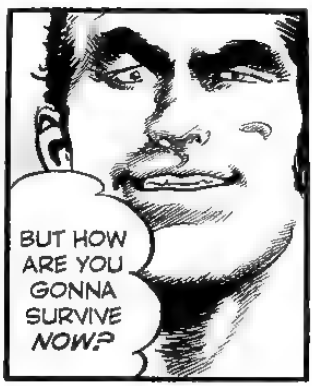
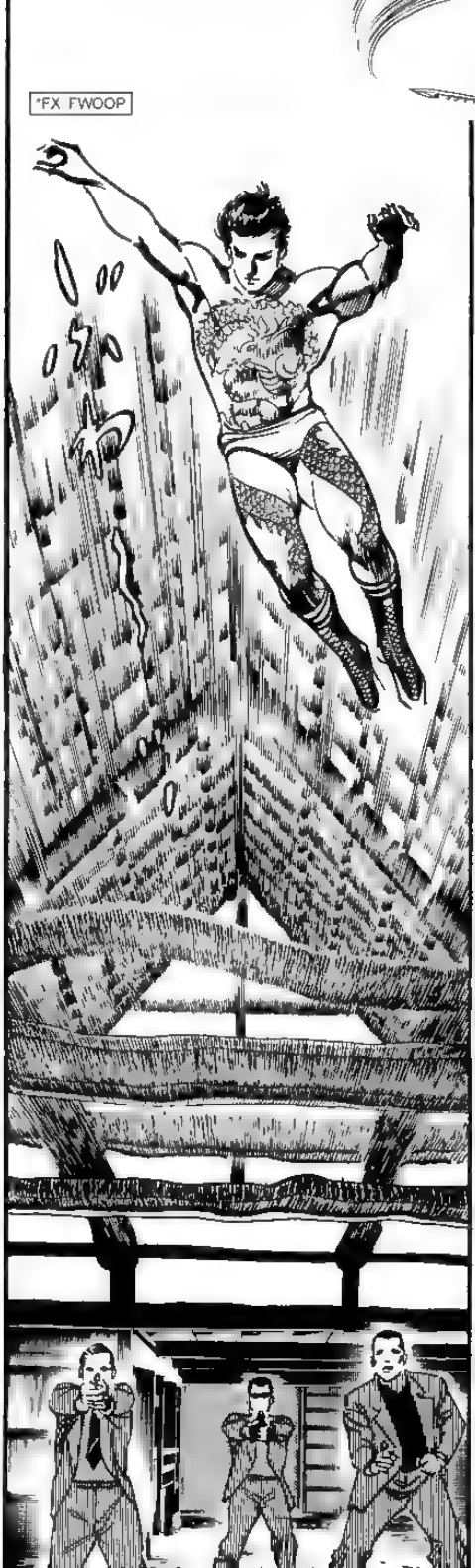
*FX HAHA HAHA HAHAHA
YOU USED ADVANCED BREATH CONTROL TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU WERE DYING...
...WHEN YOUR REAL INTENTION WAS TO GET US TO BRING YOU HERE SO YOU COULD LOCATE OUR HIDEOUT!
WELL DONE, FREE-MAN! WELL, WELL DONE!
X HEH- HAHA HAHAHA

*FX THD THD

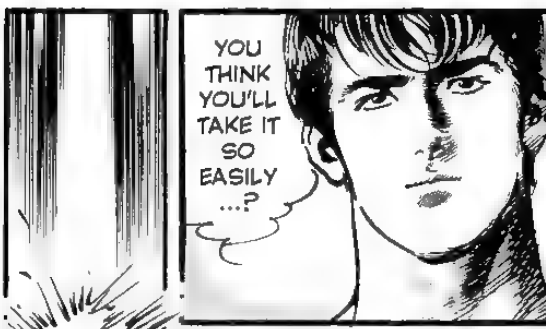

BUT HOW ARE YOU GONNA SURVIVE NOW?

YES, HOW DO YOU PLAN ON GETTING OUT OF THIS, EXACTLY?!
HO HO HO HO HO...
*FX SHH
*FX HOHOHOHOHO
*FX HAHAHAHAHA


*FX FWOOP

*FX FWSHH

THIS TIME, YOUR LIFE IS MINE!!


YOU THINK YOU'LL TAKE IT SO EASILY ...?

*FX SHFF
*FX WHMP'
*FX SMOOCH
*FX HUH?'

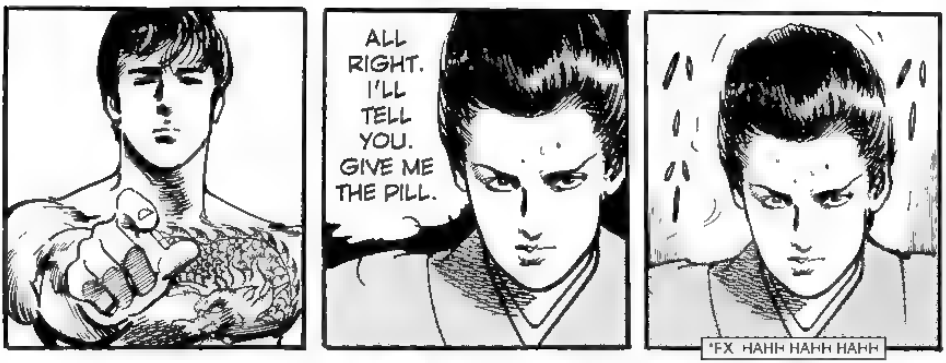
FX MNPH
*FX ULLP!

HE FORCED SOME KIND OF CAPSULE DOWN MY THROAT!! WHAT WAS IT?!
*FX WHO
W- WAIT!!
FX GRRAAHH
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU MAKE ME SWALLOW?!

A HIGHLY ABSORBANT RESIN POWDER.
A POWDER THAT CAN ABSORB 1000 TIMES ITS OWN WEIGHT IN WATER.
IT'S MADE OF STARCH, CELLU-LOSE, AND A SYNTHETIC POLYMER.
IN OTHER WORDS, ONCE IT'S RELEASED IN YOUR STOMACH, IT'LL SOAK UP WATER UNTIL IT SWELLS TO 1000 TIMES ITS SIZE.
THE POWDER HAS THE DUAL PRO-PERTIES OF BOTH ATTRACTING WATER TO IT AND AT THE SAME TIME SOAKING IT IN THROUGH OSMOTIC PRESSURE.
WE CREATED A MOLECULE OF WATER-SOLUBLE RESIN...
WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT THE *ANTIDOTE*.
THIS WILL TURN THAT AWFUL POWDER IN YOUR STOMACH TO REGULAR STARCH.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO...? YOU'VE GOT ABOUT TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE CAPSULE DISSOLVES...

*FX WHA--?
P-PLEASE LET ME HAVE IT!!
YES. IF YOU ANSWER MY QUES-TIONS.
WHY ARE THEY CHALLENGING THE 108 DRAGONS?!
WAS IT YOU WHO ABDUCTED KANTO RAILWAY CHAIRMAN IMAIDA?!
ANSWER ME!!
WHO ARE THE ONES BACKING YOU?!
WHAT'S THE NATURE OF THE ORGANI-ZATION?!

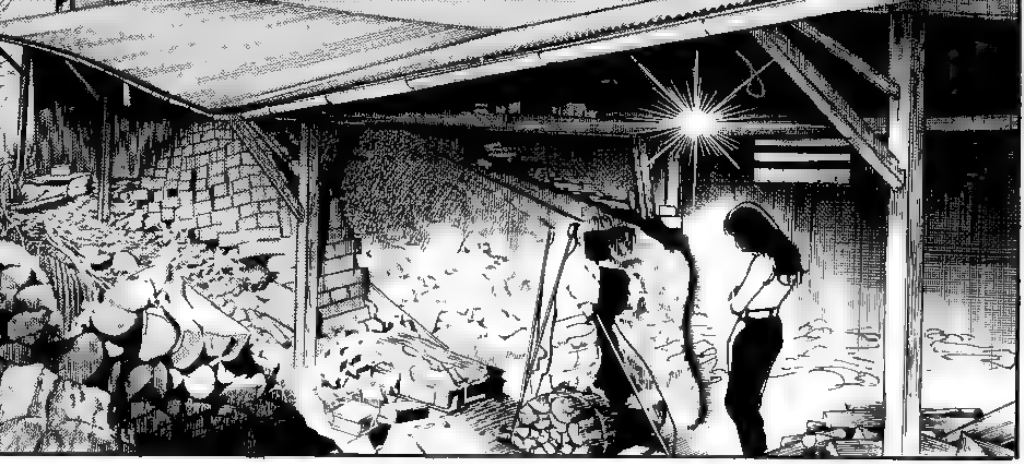
*FX FWSHH
WAIT!! DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME?!
HRRR ...

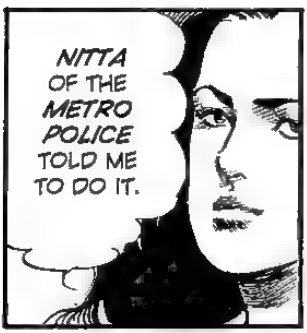

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL YOU. GIVE ME THE PILL.
*FX HAHH HAHH HAHH

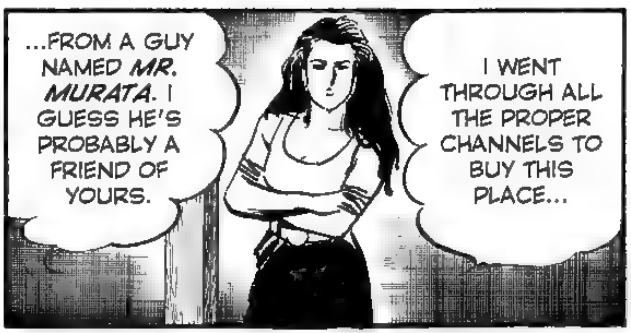
*FX WHSH

*FX FLIT
*FX GRRAAHH
BUT KIMIE DID.
I DIDN'T MAKE ANY DEALS WITH YOU! I DIDN'T PROMISE ANYTHING!!
OSHU!! YOU AREN'T THE TYPE TO KILL A MAN SO SMALL-MINDEDLY! YOU WANT TO KILL FREEMAN IN A FAIR FIGHT, DON'T YOU?!
*FX HM?!

AN OATH SWORN BY YOUR COMRADES IS AN OATH SWORN BY YOU!!
WE ARE BEASTS THAT LIVE IN A WORLD OF DEATH AND MURDER.
WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF?!
BUT...
...WE NEED TO OBSERVE THE MOST BASIC RULES, AT LEAST! IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT DISTINGUISHES US FROM ANIMALS!
YOU'RE CALLING ME AFRAID?!
*FX SMILE
FINE!! I'LL WAIT! FOR THE TIME BEING... WE HAVE A TRUCE.
BWA-HAHAHAHAHAHA! I'M JUST IMPATIENT!
I'M JUST BURNING UP TO KILL HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! HAHAHAHAHA ...




NITTA OF THE METRO POLICE TOLD ME TO DO IT.

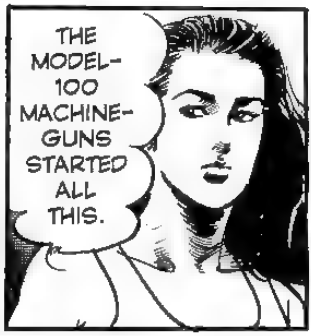

...FROM A GUY NAMED MR. MURATA. I GUESS HE'S PROBABLY A FRIEND OF YOURS.
I WENT THROUGH ALL THE PROPER CHANNELS TO BUY THIS PLACE...

AS I SUS-PECTED.

HE'S ONE OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORT-ING US.
HE'S HEAD OF SPECIAL INVESTI-GATIONS NOW...

THE STORY STARTS BACK IN WORLD WAR II.

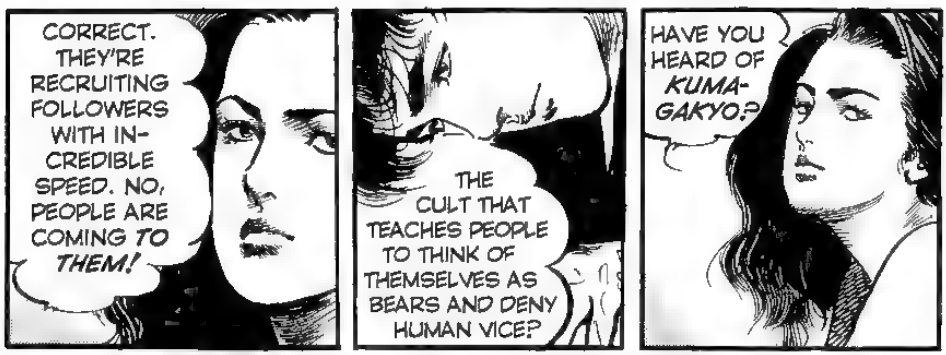
MODEL-100 MACHINE GUNS?!


THE MODEL-100 MACHINE-GUNS STARTED ALL THIS.

THE REASON WAS THAT THE MILITARY, WHICH UNTIL THAT POINT HAD BEEN MAKING MODEL-38, 44, AND 99 BOLT-ACTION RIFLES, WERE OF THE CONVICTION THAT THEY HAD NO NEED TO BE MAKING SHORT-RANGE SUBMACHINE-GUNS.
BACK WHEN EVERY OTHER COUNTRY WAS MANUFACTURING SUBMACHINE-GUNS, JAPAN WAS LAGGING BEHIND.
*FX FSHH

MODEL-100 SUBMACHINE-GUNS THAT USED 8MM *NAMBU* BULLETS.
EXACTLY. BUT FINALLY, TOWARDS THE END OF THE WAR, THEY STARTED MAKING THEM.
*FX HRR HRR
"ONE BULLET FOR ONE TARGET"...
IMAGINE THEM STORED AWAY SOMEWHERE, NEVER USED, IN PERFECT CONDITION ...
BUT THEY BOASTED EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE, COMPARED EVEN TO MODERN FIREARMS.
IN THE END, SO FEW WERE PRODUCED THAT THEY WERE KNOWN AS THE "PHANTOM MACHINE-GUN."
A THOU-SAND OF THEM!
NO, *SUPERIOR* TO MODERN FIREARMS.
*FX QU SH

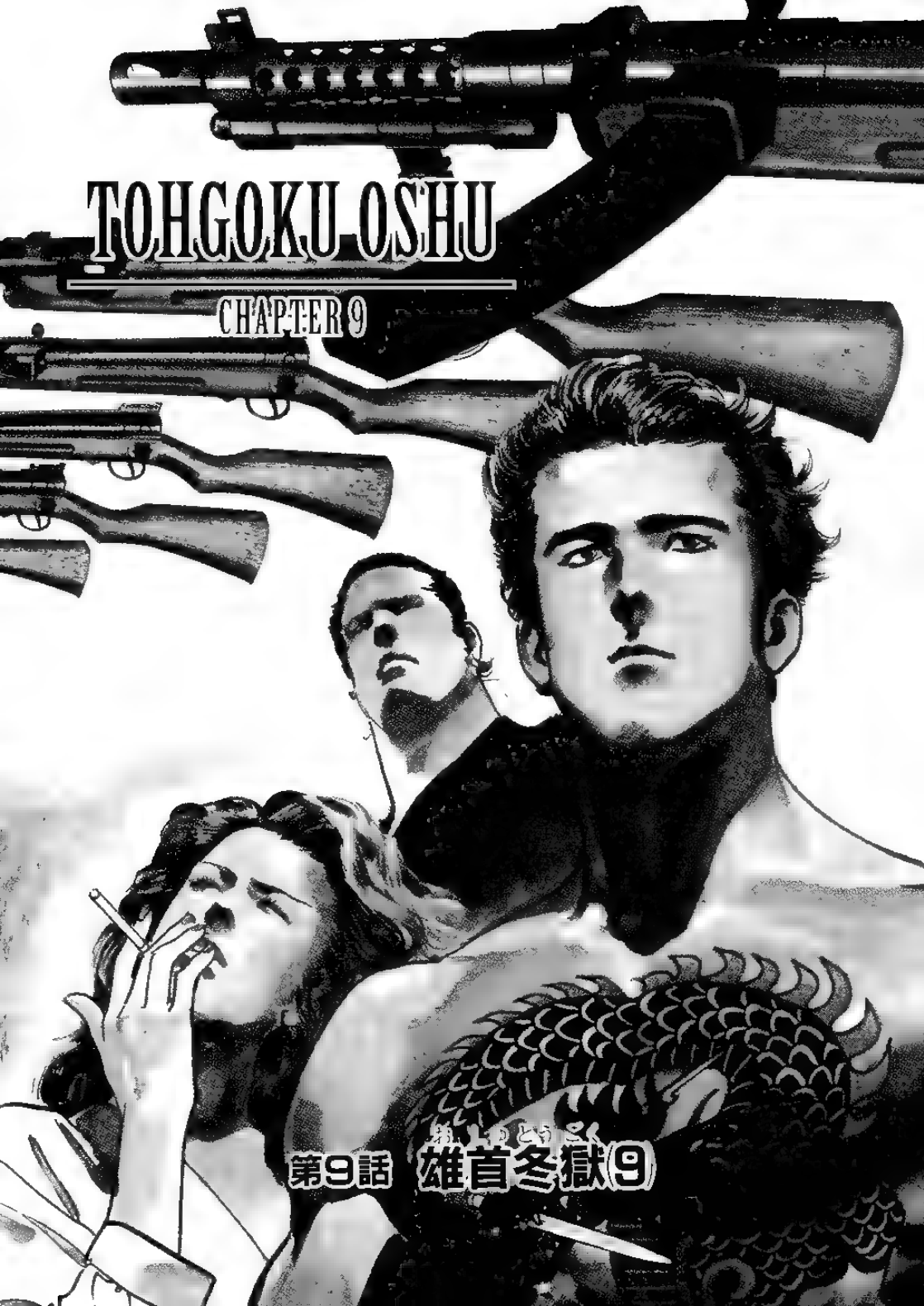
*FX: WHSS WHSS


CORRECT. THEY'RE RECRUITING FOLLOWERS WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED. NO, PEOPLE ARE COMING *TO THEM!*
THE CULT THAT TEACHES PEOPLE TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS BEARS AND DENY HUMAN VICE?
HAVE YOU HEARD OF *KUMA-GAKYO?*

OSHU, TOO.
YES.
YOU'RE ONE OF THEM?

NAIJI KUMAGA-- THE FOUNDER-- HE LOCATED THEM.
THE THOUSAND MODEL-100 SUBMACHINE-GUNS.
"AND KUMAGA FOUND YOU AND THE 108 DRAGONS BEHIND IMAIDA."
"THE KANTO RAILWAY CHAIRMAN, IMAIDA, HAD BEEN THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THEIR PRODUCTION."
"SO TO FIRST SOUND YOU OUT, HE SENT THE ASSASSIN KAIEDA TO YOU WITH THE CURSED SWORD, MURAMASA..."

"...WITH THE AIM OF ULTIMATELY TAKING OVER YOUR ORGANIZATION!"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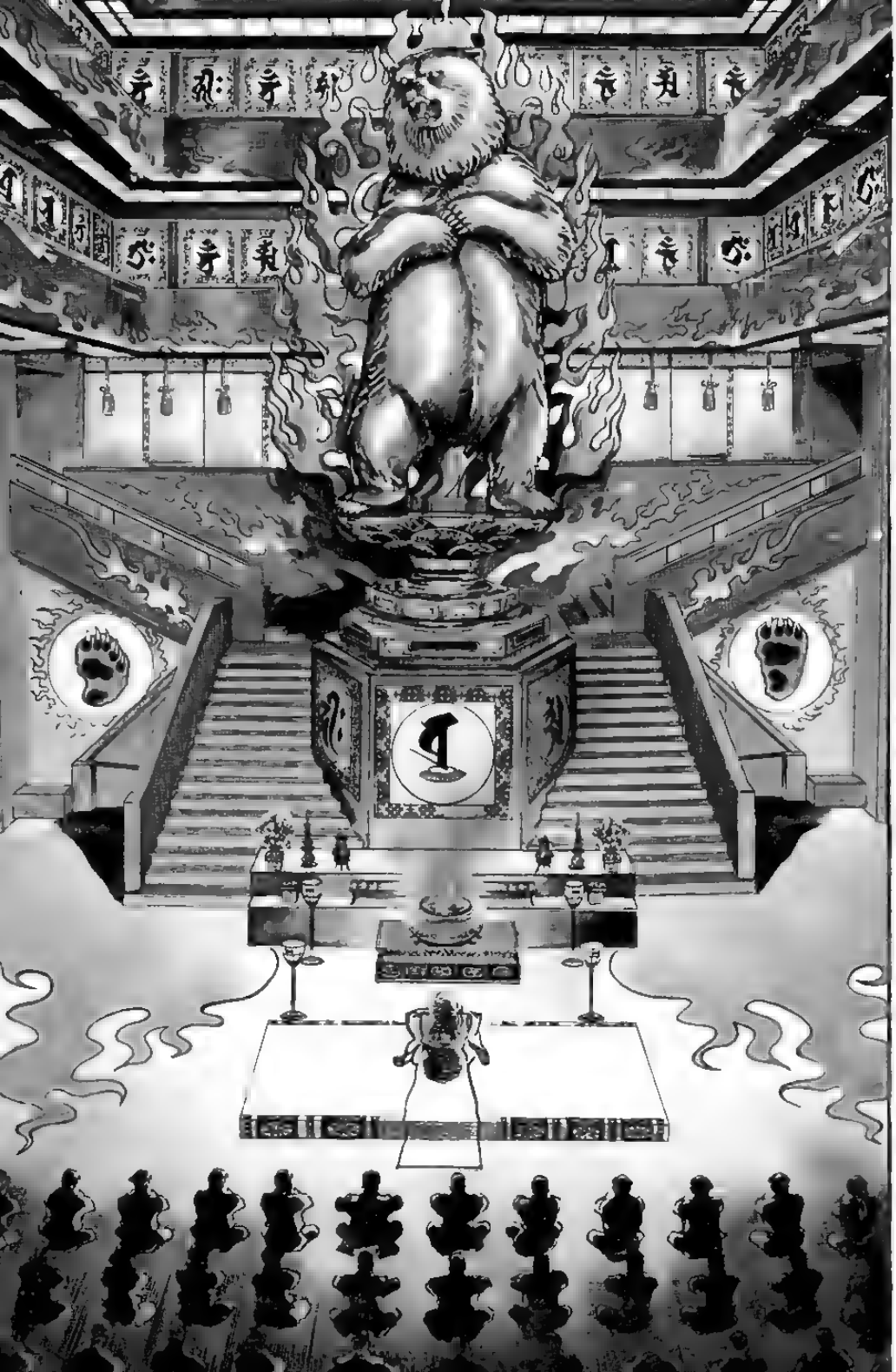


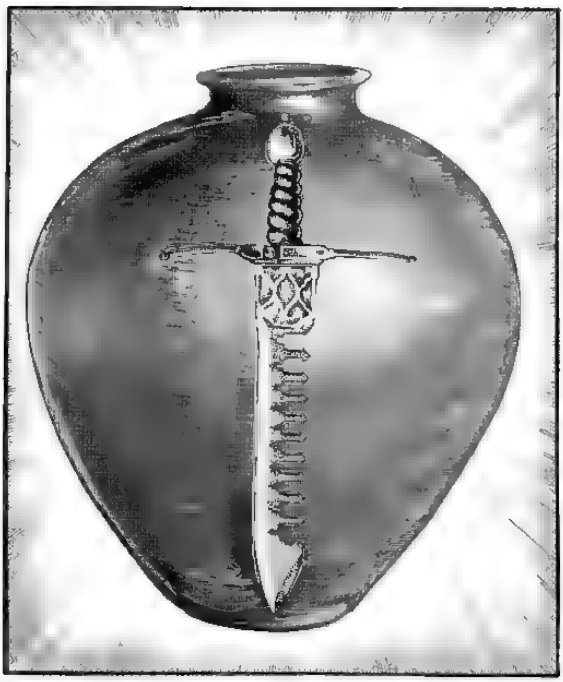
*FX HRRRAHHH HHHRRRRAAHHH HHHRRAAHH

*FX AHHRRR

MMM
...
CONTACT KIMIE! TELL HER TO BRING HIM HERE!!

WHAT?! FREE-MAN?!

*FX WHA ?



*FX OOH

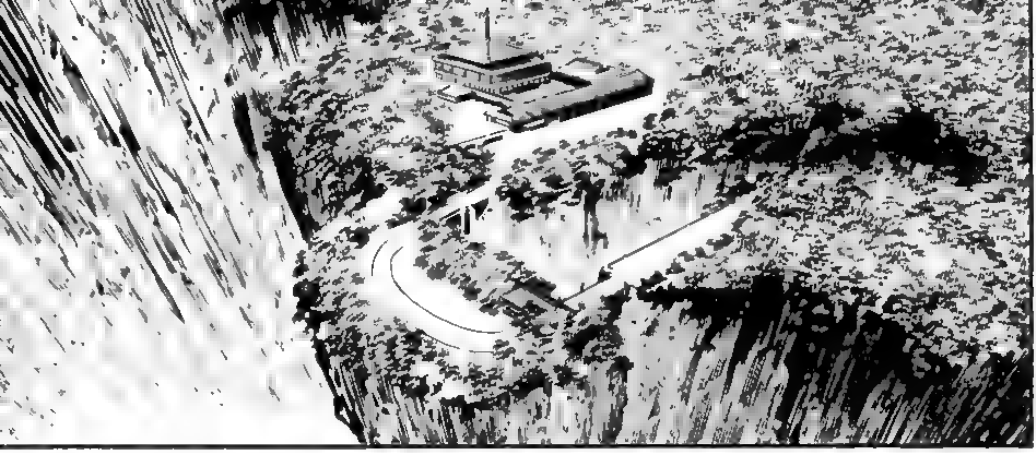
I MADE IT FOR YOU TO PUT YOUR ASHES IN.
IT'S YOURS, OSHU.

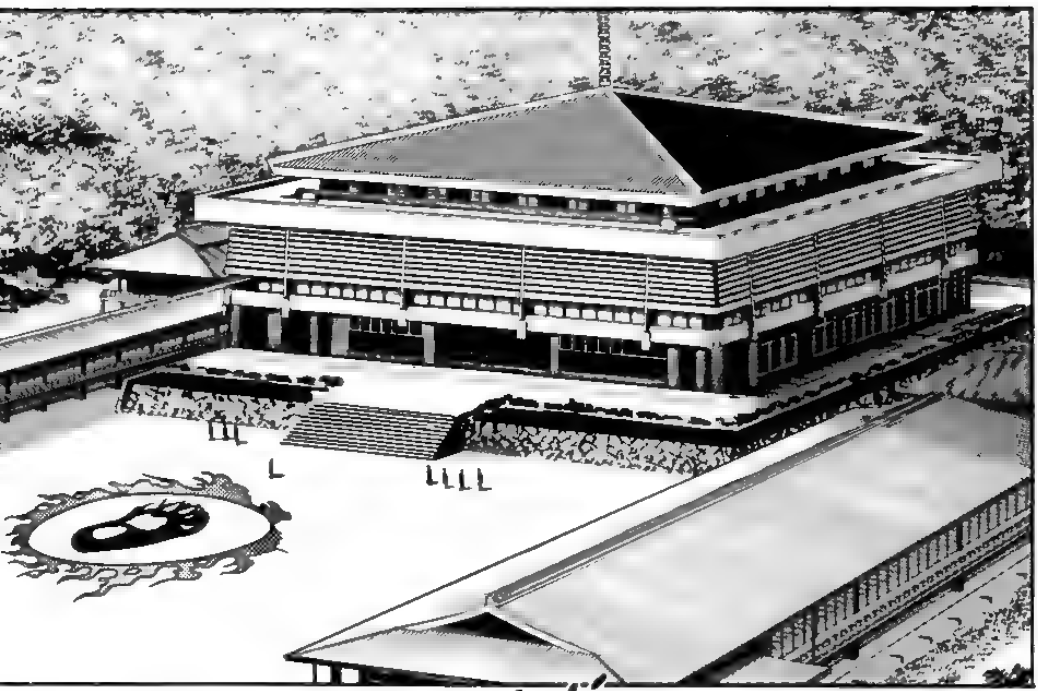
*FX FWSHH
* GRRR
HRRR ...
IT BELONGS TO YOU. BREAK IT IF YOU WISH.
THAT'S WHY I MADE IT FOR YOU.
OSHU...I KNOW OF TWO PEOPLE WHO WOULD VERY MUCH WANT YOUR ASHES PRE-SERVED.

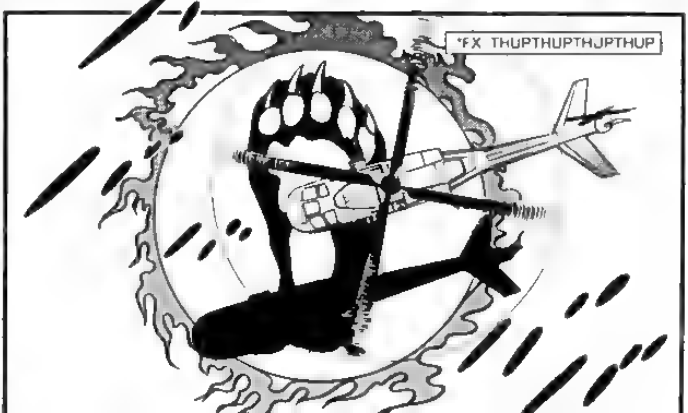
.....
I MADE IT FOR THOSE TWO PEOPLE. WITH ALL MY HEART.
...TO THE HOLY PLACE OF KUMA-GAKYO.
WE'LL TAKE YOU NOW...

*FX THUPTHUP THUPTHUPTHUP
*FX THUPTHUP THUPTHUP

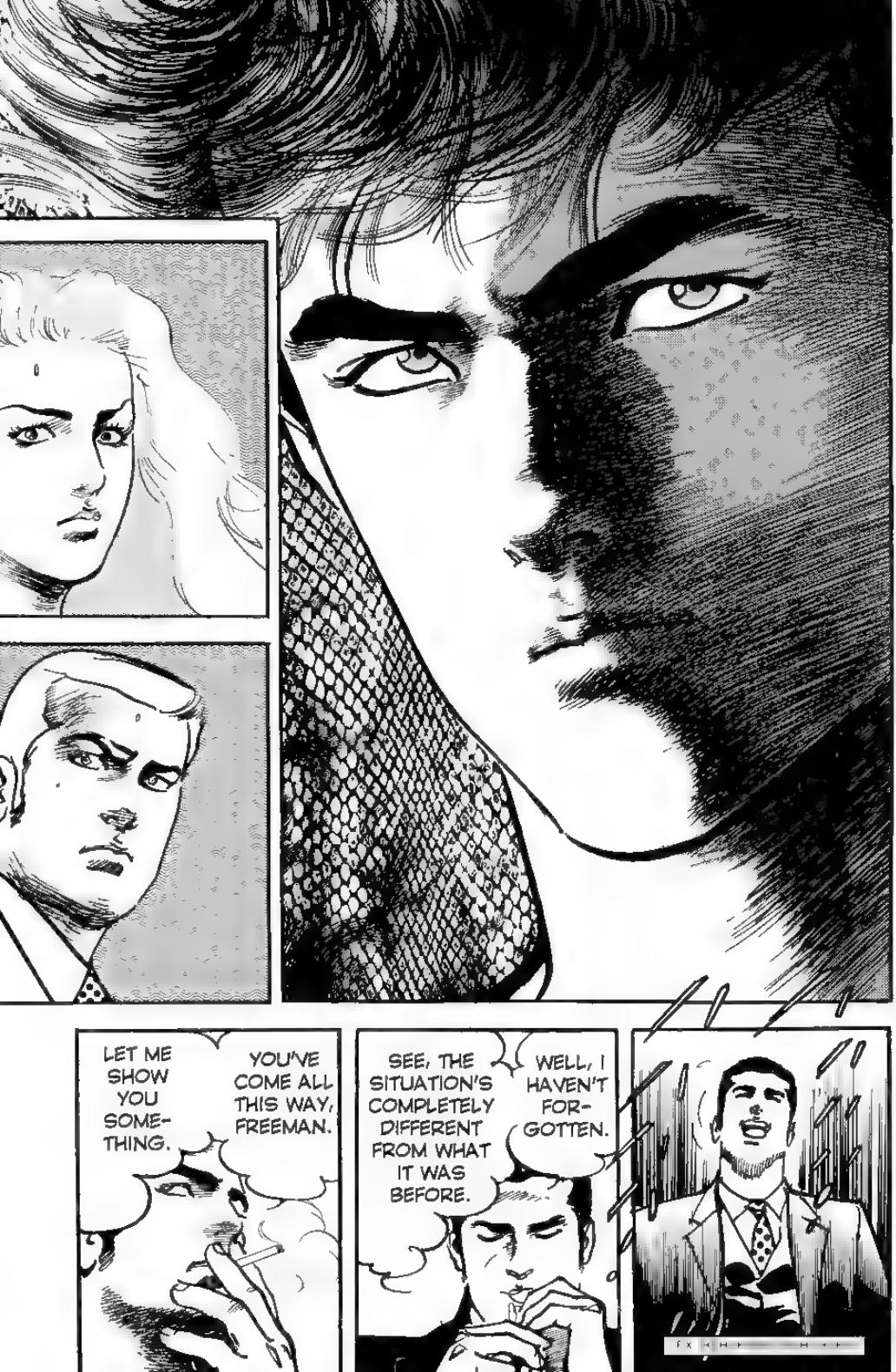
*FX HM?
*FX THUPTHUPTHUP!

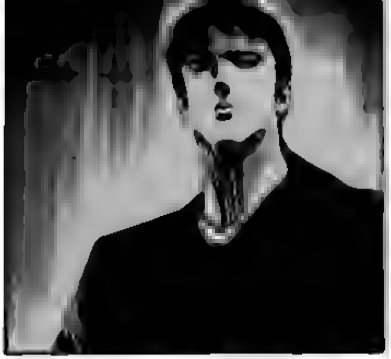





*FX THUPTHUPTHJPTHUP

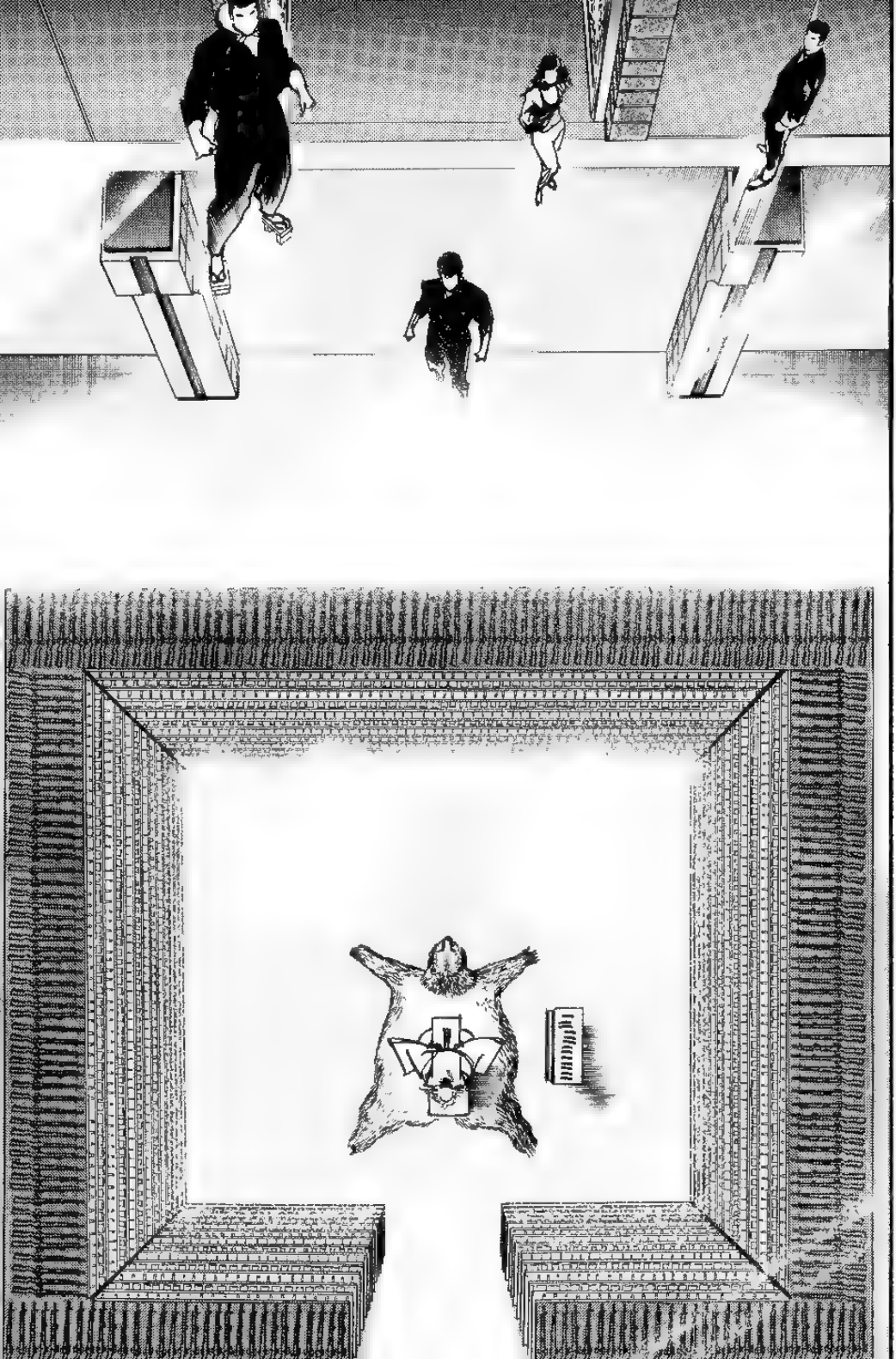
THIS IS GONNA MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST DETECTIVE ON EARTH!
I GET TO WATCH FREEMAN, ASSASSIN AND BOSS OF THE 108 DRAGONS, GET SLAUGHTERED BY TOHGOKU OSHU! HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
SHED TEARS, MAYBE?
SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET KILLED?
THEY SAY THAT WHENEVER YOU KILL SOMEONE, YOU SHED TEARS, FREEMAN.
...IF YOU VALUED YOUR LIFE.
TO WIPE ME FROM YOUR MEMORY FOREVER...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO FORGET ME.

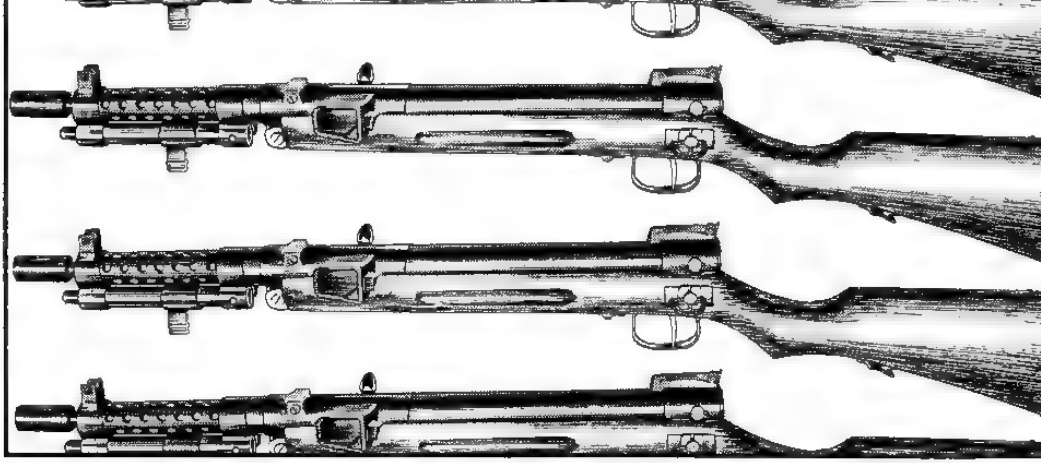

LET ME SHOW YOU SOME-THING.
YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY, FREEMAN.
SEE, THE SITUATION'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS BEFORE.
WELL, I HAVEN'T FOR-GOTTEN.

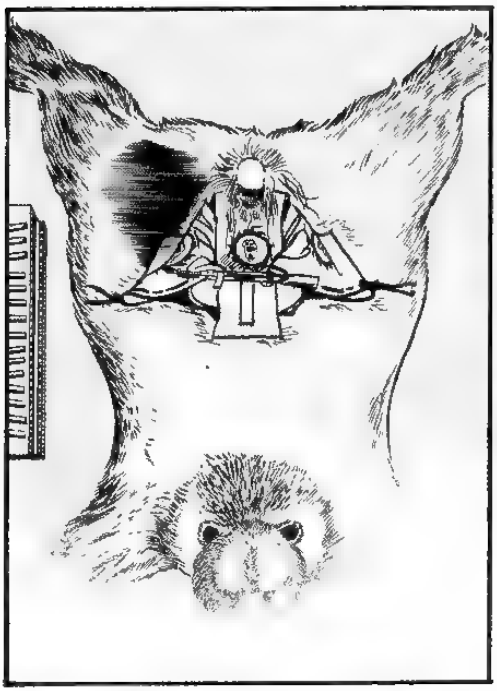


*FX: ("sound" of silence)

*FX: PAFF!

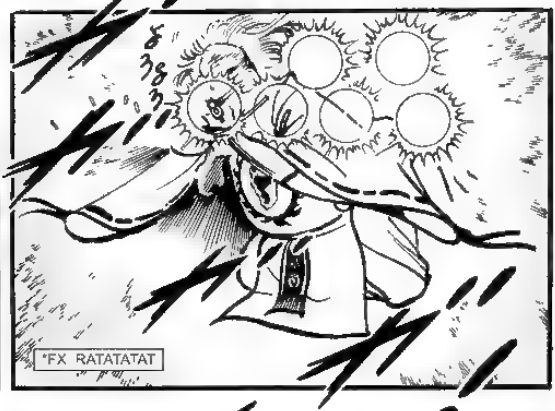






TAKE A GOOD LOOK. THE THOUSAND MODEL-100 SUBMACHINE-GUNS I'M SURE KIMIE TOLD YOU ABOUT.
THEY BLEW *MY* MIND WHEN I FIRST SAW THEM, TOO.

I'VE BROUGHT YOU LONG TAI YANG... FREEMAN-- HEAD OF THE 108 DRAGONS.
GOOD MORNING, MASTER NAIJI.



*FX RATATATAT

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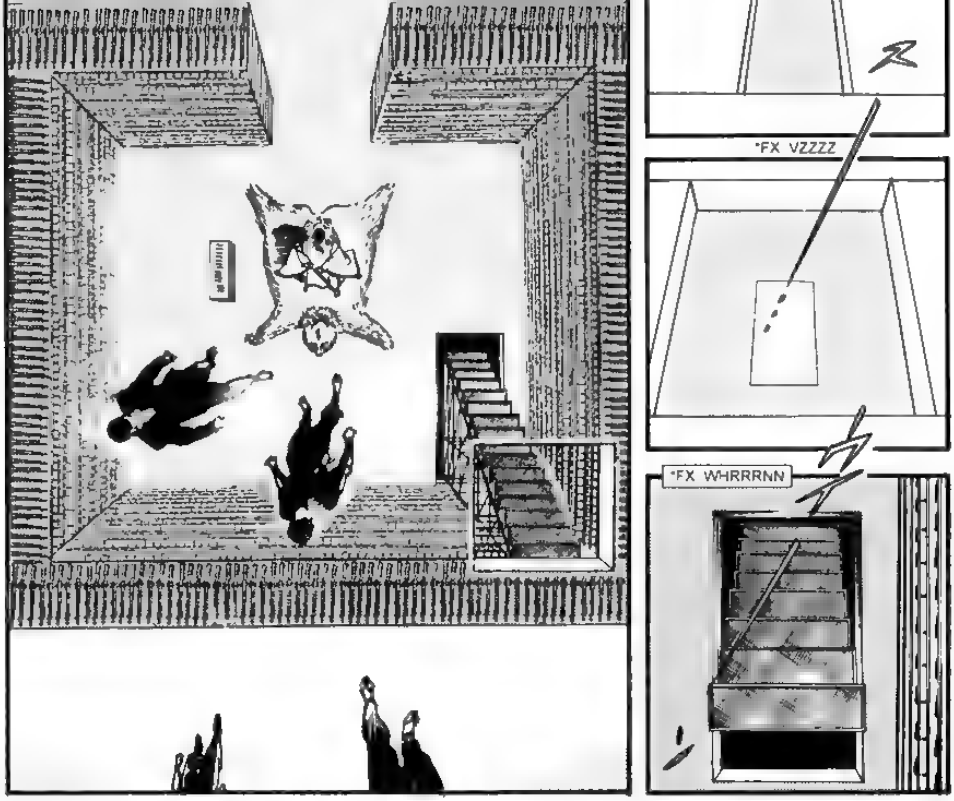
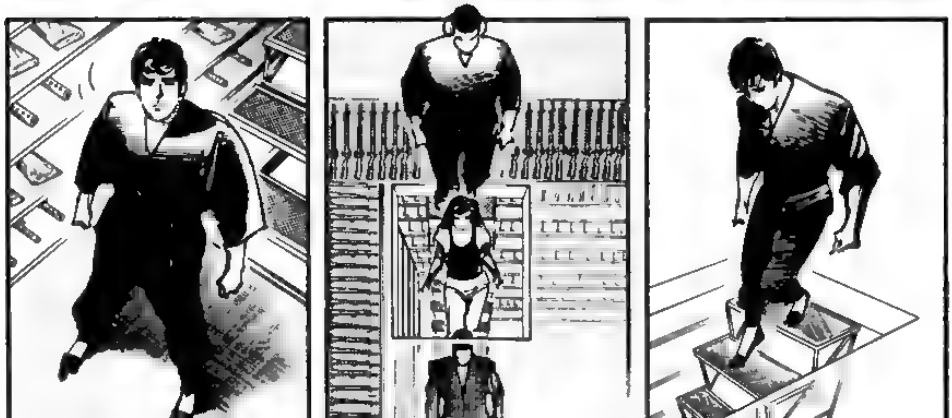
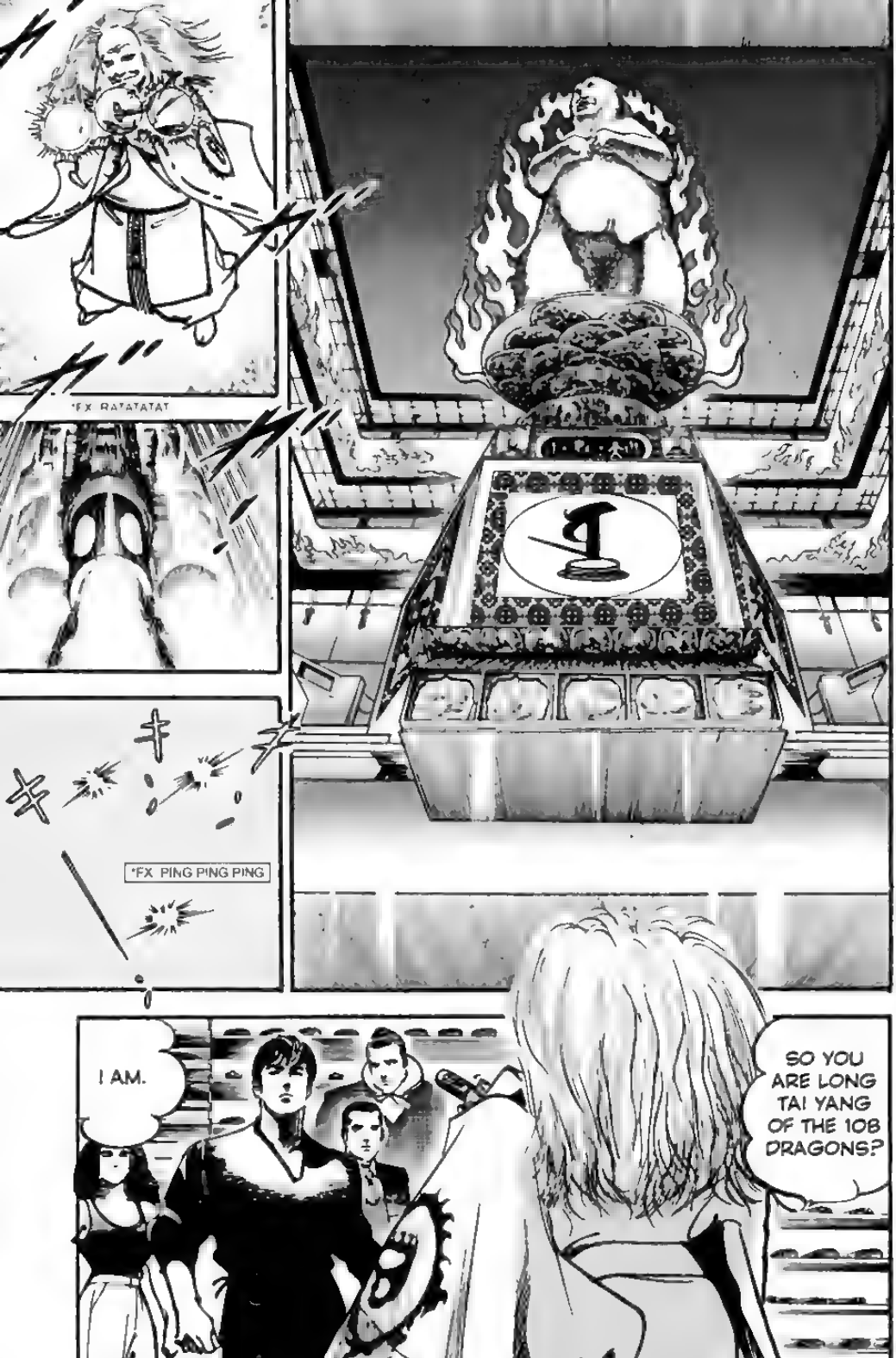

*FX VZZZZ
*FX WHRRRNN

MASTER NAIJI HAS SUMMONED YOU. GET DOWN THERE, FREE-MAN!!
DESCEND. I GRANT YOU AUDIENCE.




*FX RATATATAT
*FX PING PING PING
I AM.
SO YOU ARE LONG TA! YANG OF THE 108 DRAGONS?

ALL I NEED DO IS SEIZE THE IMPERIAL PALACE AND THE NATIONAL DIET...

WITH A THOUSAND SUBMACHINE-GUNS I CAN TAKE OVER JAPAN.

*FX SHFF

YOU WILL TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION, THEN YOU WILL DIE.

I MAY HAVE ONE HUNDRED, BUT NOT ONE THOUSAND. THAT'S WHY I WANT THE 108 DRAGONS--THE ORGANIZATION AND ALL ITS MEMBERS.

I HAVE THE MACHINE-GUNS BUT I DO NOT HAVE PEOPLE WHO CAN USE THEM.

YOU SEIZE JAPAN, AND THEN WHAT?

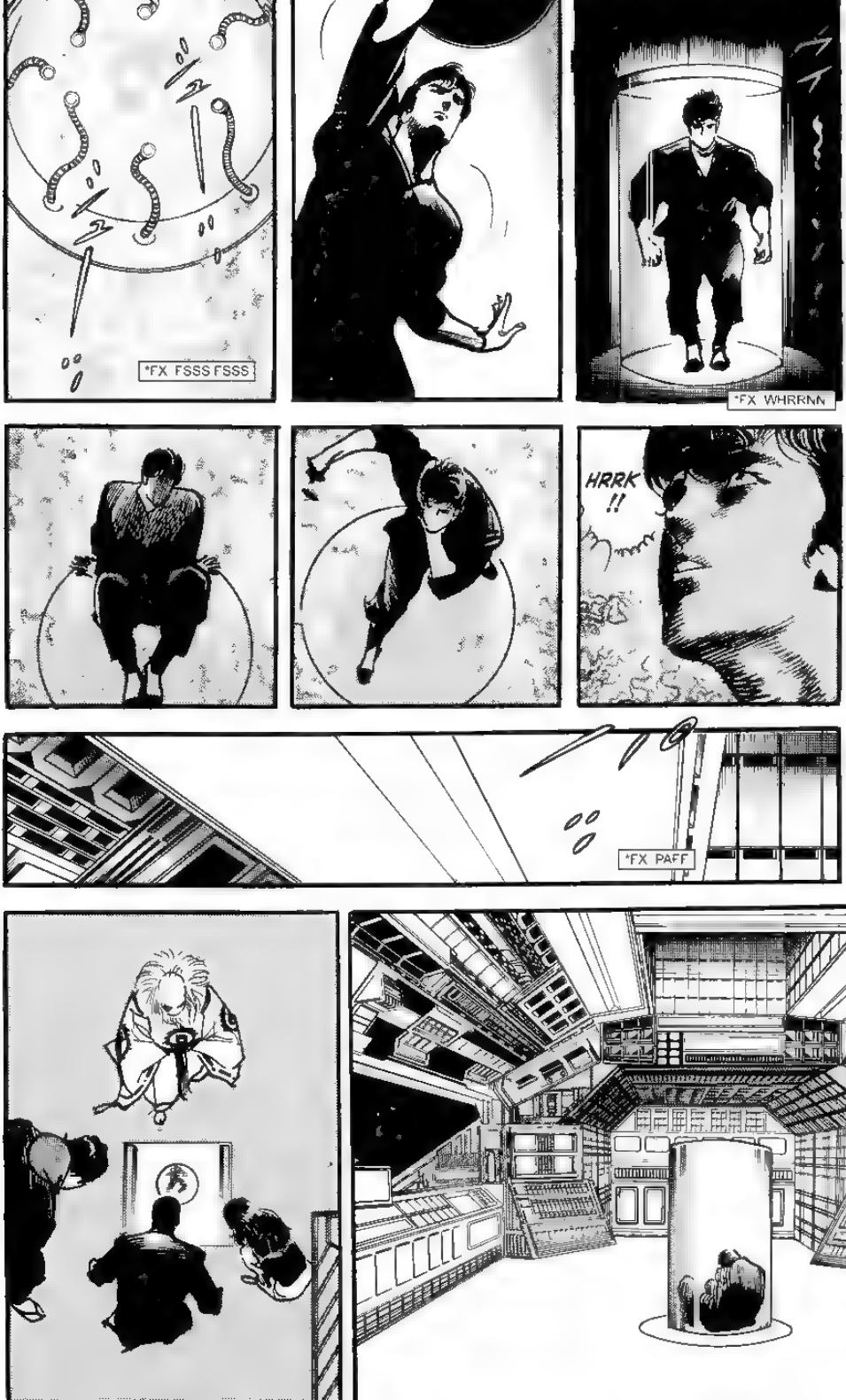
EITHER WAY, YOU WON'T BE LEAVING HERE ALIVE.

SUCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM.

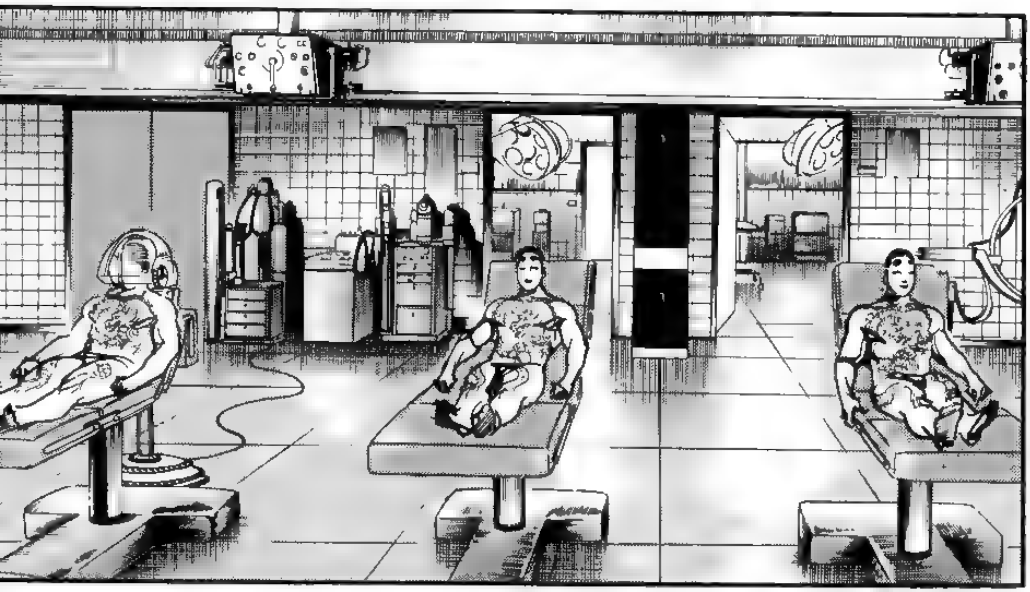
I WILL MAKE KUMAGAKYO THE NATIONAL RELIGION OF JAPAN. HERETICAL FAITHS WILL BE RECOGNIZED NO MORE.

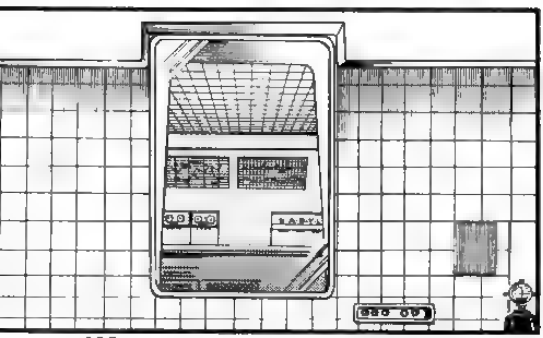
I WANT THEM.
BUT AS LEADER OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ORGANIZATION OF ASSASSINS, YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED *PROFESSIONALS*.
I HAVE 100,000 FAITHFUL, BUT NOT ONE HUNDRED OF THEM KNOW HOW TO HANDLE A SUBMACHINE-GUN.
YOU ARE ABSO-LUTELY COR-RECT! HA HA HA HA HA!
*FX CLAP CLAP
*FX HAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA
MY MEN WILL TAKE ORDERS ONLY FROM *ME*.
*FX SHFF

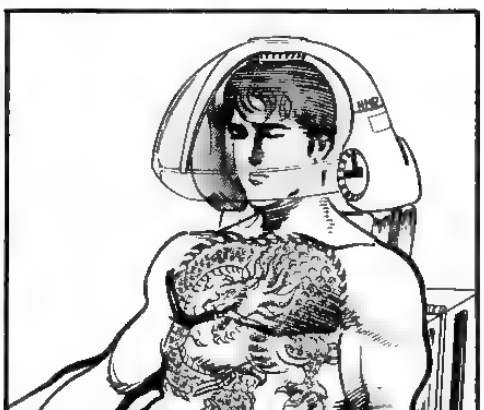
THE 108 DRAGONS WILL RECEIVE *MY* ORDERS THROUGH *THEM!*
ALL THEY NEED NOW IS YOUR FACE-- *HA HA HA HA HA!!*-- AND I'LL HAVE TWO PERFECT COPIES OF YOU!
FX HUH
*FX AAH!
FX SHK
*FX CLAP!

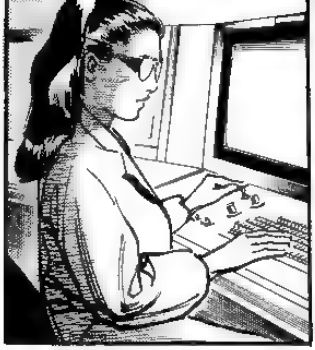

*FX FSSS FSSS
*FX WHRRNN
HRRK !!
*FX PAFF

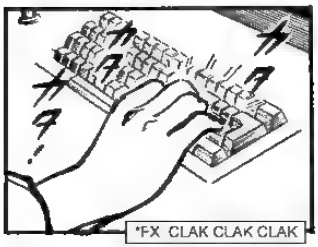
OSHU. ONCE THE COPIES ARE COMPLETE, FREEMAN WILL BE YOURS.
YOU MAY DO WITH HIM AS YOU PLEASE.
.....
SO FREE-MAN'S ONLY HUMAN AFTER ALL.
EVEN *HE* COULD NOT REACT FAST ENOUGH TO SO MANY UNFORSEEN EVENTS.







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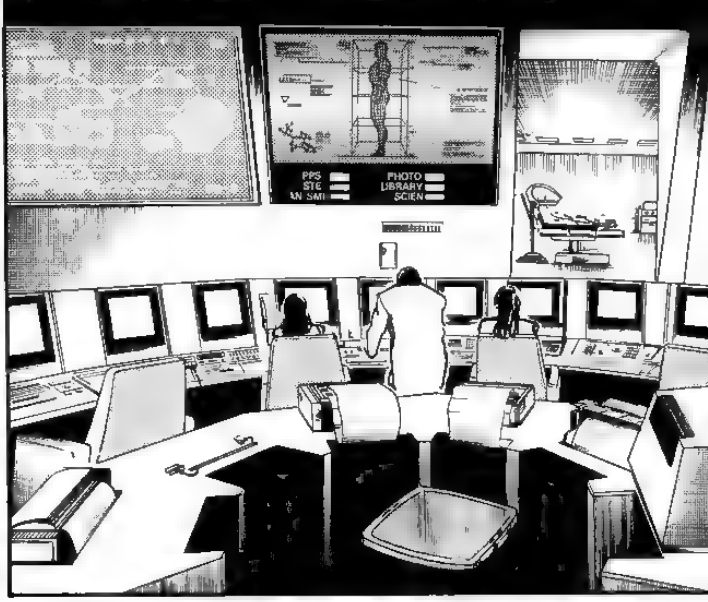
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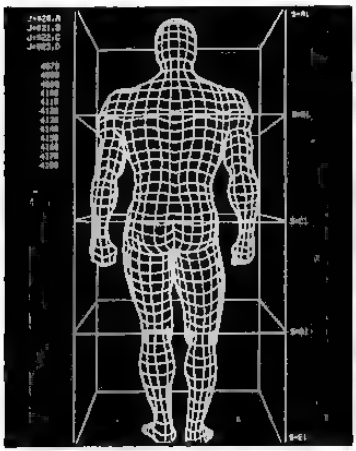

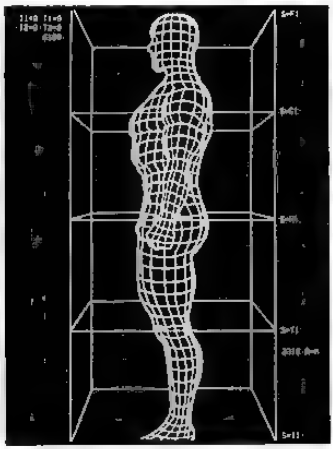

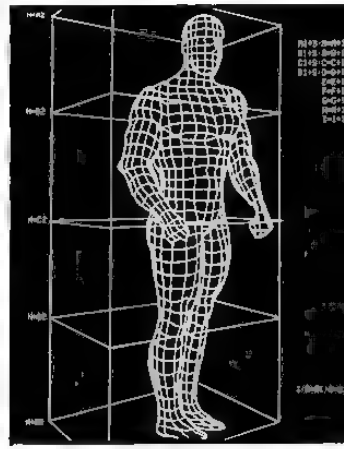

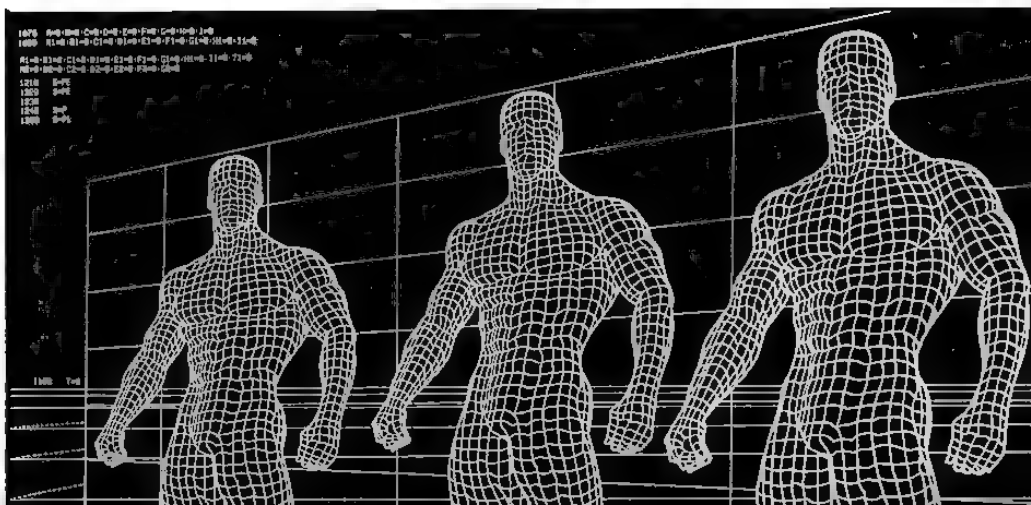

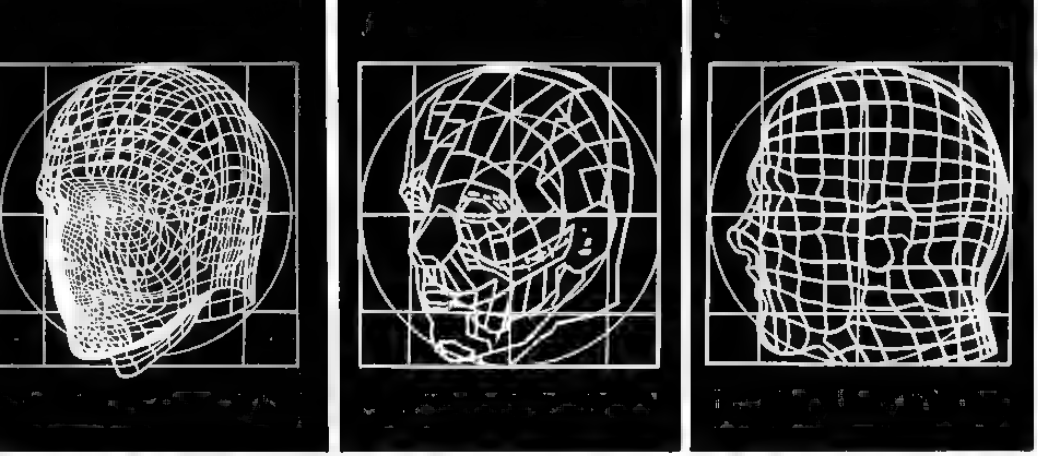

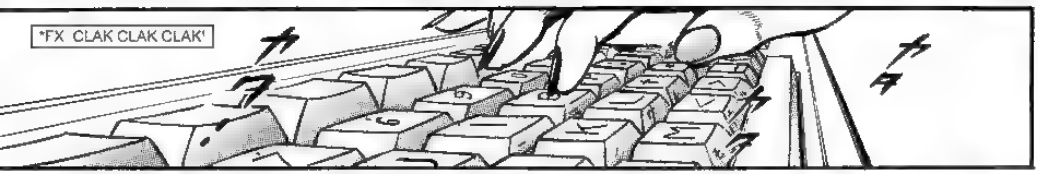
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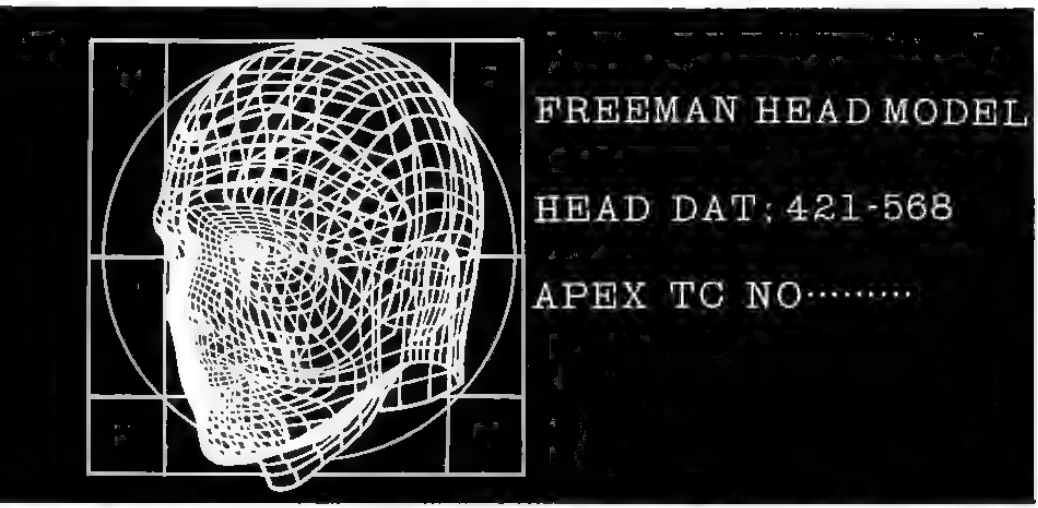
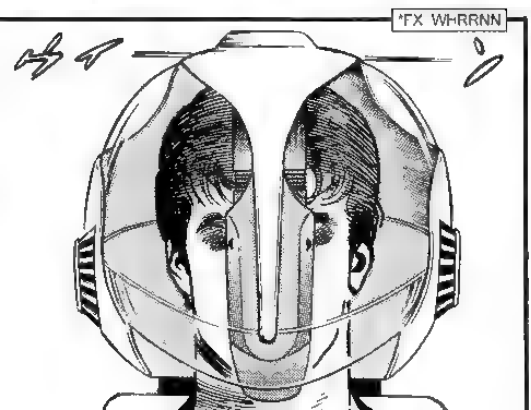

FREEMAN HEAD MODEL
HEAD DAT: 421-568
APEX TC NO·····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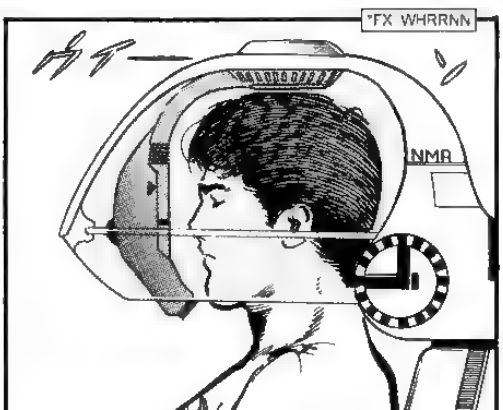
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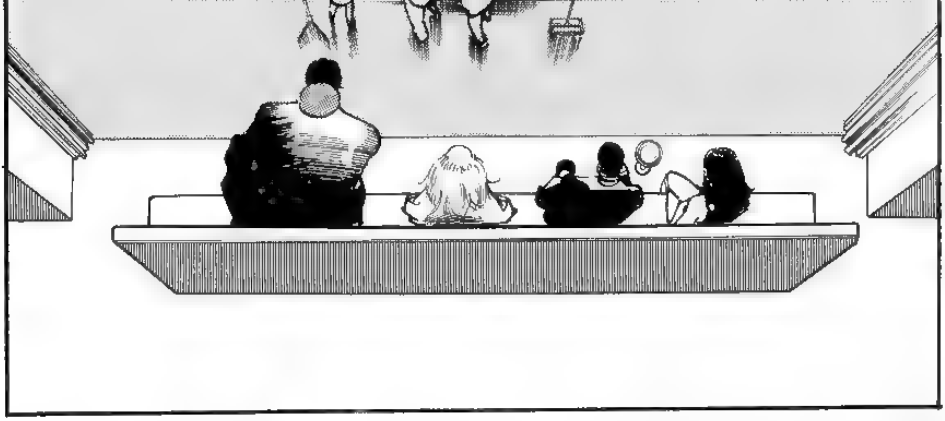

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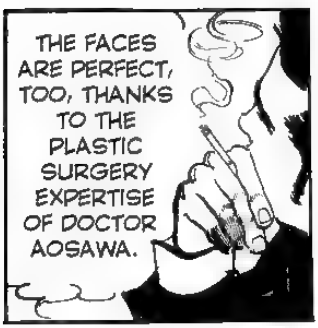

THE FACES ARE PERFECT, TOO, THANKS TO THE PLASTIC SURGERY EXPERTISE OF DOCTOR AOSAWA.

I HAVE 100,000 FOLLOW-ERS.

HOW THE HELL DID YOU FIND SUCH PERFECT LOOKALIKES...? EVEN THEIR BONE STRUC-TURE AND VOICES ARE IDENTICAL TO HIS..

TWO WEEKS IS ALL I NEED.
THAT'S WHY I'M MAKING *TWO* COPIES.

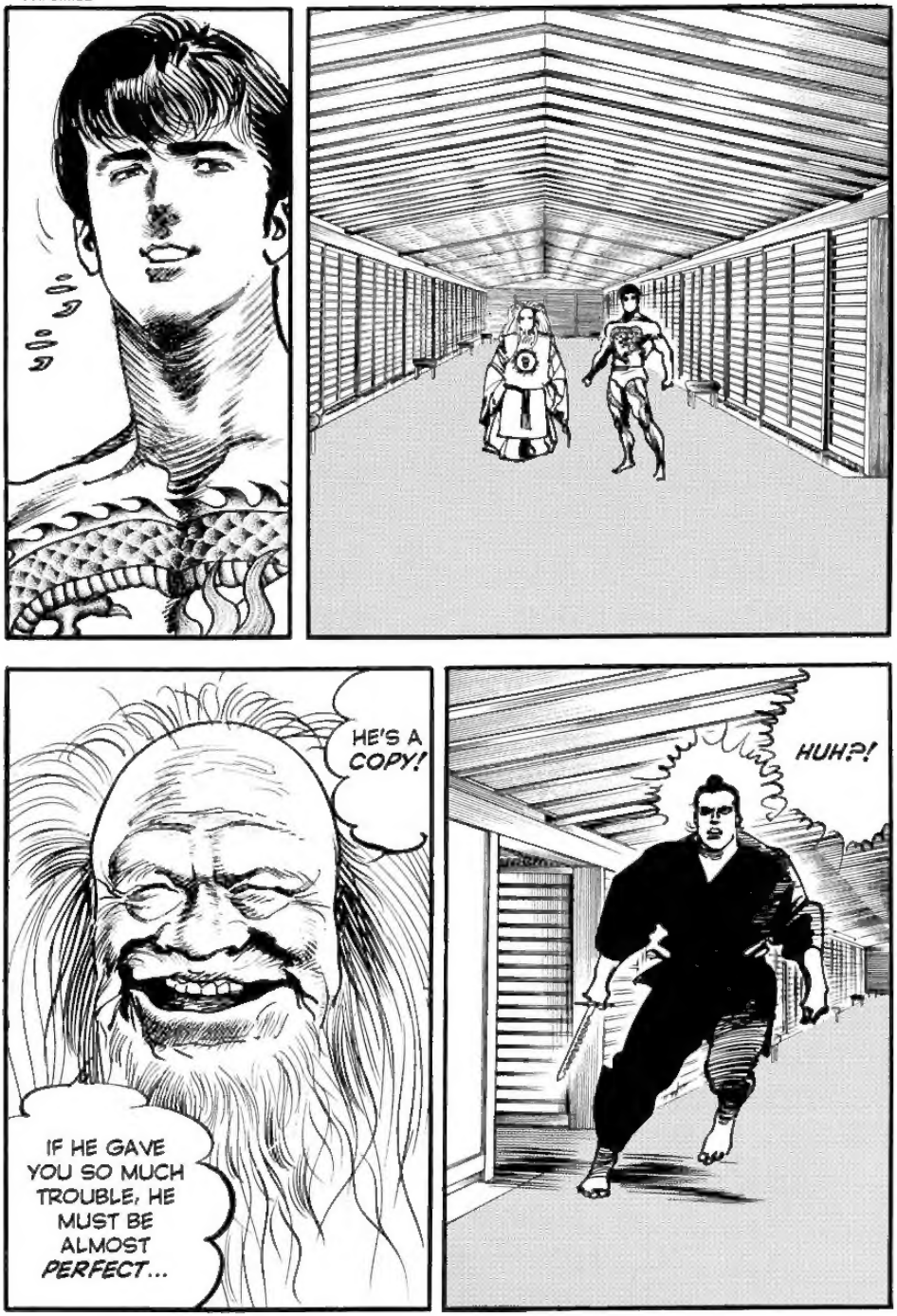
IT'S A SPECIAL STITCH OF NYLON GLUED TO SILICON FILM AND MESHED WITH COLLAGEN...
BUT THAT SYNTHETIC SKIN-- *BIOBRANE*-- ONLY LASTS FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS.
...BUT IT BREAKS DOWN TOO QUICKLY WHEN PUT INTO USE. THEY SAY IT ONLY LASTS A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEFORE IT STARTS TO DISSOLVE.

*FX SHN
*FX FWISH FWISH

WE'RE GOING TO SETTLE THIS NOW!! THIS TIME YOU DIE!!
FX WHAM
*FX FWISH
*FX FLIP
HMPH!!
GRRAAHHH!!

*FX: KA-CLINK
*FX: WHD
*FX: SPTCH
URGH!!
*FX: GRIN
*FX: THD THD
STOP!!
*FX: THMP

*FX: SMILE



END VOLUME 3

小池一夫 作
池上遼一 画

CRYING FREEMAN

Kazuo Koike / Ryoichi Ikegami

クライングフリーマン

GRAPHIC NOVEL
MANGA / CRIME

A failed assassination attempt brings into Freeman's possession Muramasa, the Devil's Sword, an ancient blade that brings misfortune and death to any who possess it. To tame the sword's malevolent spirit, Tiger Orchid, Freeman's wife, takes the blade to train with a legendary swordmaster, but she'll need to find him in the Kowloon Walled City, a slum so virulent that it does not officially exist. But its dangers are all too real, including a criminal army bent on selling Tiger Orchid into slavery!

Written by the legendary Kazuo Koike, creator of *Lone Wolf and Cub*, and illustrated by the incomparable Ryoichi Ikegami, *Crying Freeman* is adult manga at its most challenging: dark, violent, morally complex, erotically charged, and regarded worldwide as a masterpiece of adult graphic fiction. Dark Horse Manga is proud to present *Crying Freeman*, one of the jewels in the crown of manga classics, with an entirely new and faithful translation.

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

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